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AN
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION
OF
LOUISIANA,
AND
WEST-FLORIDA,

COMPREHENDING THE
RIVER MISSISSIPPI WITH ITS PRINCIPAL BRANCHES
AND SETTLEMENTS, AND THE RIVERS PEARL,
PASCAGOULA, MOBILE, PERDIDO,
ESCAMBIA, CHACTA-HATCHA, &c.

THE
CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCE
WHETHER
ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, OR MINERAL;

WITH

Directions for Sailing into all the Bays, Lakes, Harbours and Rivers on
the North Side of the Gulf of Mexico, and for Navigating between the
Islands situated along that Coast, and ascending the Mississippi River.

BY THOMAS HUTCHINS, 1730-1789
GEOGRAPHER TO THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY ROBERT
AITKEN, NEAR THE COFFEE-HOUSE, IN
MARKET-STREET.

M.DCC.LXXXIV.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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18-12-8
F.H.P.

THE

P R E F A C E.

SEVERAL years residence in the Province of West-Florida, during which I entered into a minute examination of its coasts, harbours, lakes, and rivers, having made me perfectly acquainted with their situation, bearings, soundings, and every particular requisite to be known by Navigators, for their benefit I am induced to make my observations public. The expence and trouble at which this knowledge has been acquired, are far from inconsiderable; however, if the accurate surveys and descriptions I am thereby enabled to give, prove instructive and beneficial to my country, I shall esteem myself amply repaid.

It may be proper to observe that I have had the assistance of the remarks and surveys, so far as relates to the mouths of the Mississippi and the coast and soundings of West-Florida, of the late ingenious Mr. George Gauld, a Gentleman who was employed by the Lords of the British Admiralty for the express purpose of making an accurate chart of the abovementioned places.

I have also had recourse, in describing some parts of the Mississippi, to the publication of Captain Pitman, who resided many years on that river, and was well acquainted with the country through which it flows.

A particular detail of the advantages that may in time accrue to the possessors of West-Florida, with a complete description of the country and its productions, would

would not make an improper addition to the following work ; but as the more immediate purpose of it is to point out the dangers of its coasts to the approaching mariner, I shall confine the cursory remarks I make on those heads, to such particulars only as are most deserving of notice.

Before I enter on the prosecution of my design, I would just observe, that I shall be more solicitous to make the result of my investigations useful than amusing, I shall endeavour rather to be clear and intelligible than study to deliver myself in florid language.

AN
HISTORICAL
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION, &c.

A DESCRIPTION of the river Mississippi and the country through which it flows, called Louisiana, would have been the first objects submitted to the reader's attention; were it not humbly presumed that a short account of the discovery of the river Mississippi, and a view of the different States to which its banks have been subjected are judged necessary, before their description is attempted.

The merit of first discovering the river Mississippi, Discovery of
the Mississippi. (or in the language of the natives, Meschafipi, for the general appellation of the former is a corruption of the latter) according to Lewis Hennepin's account published in London 1698, is due to the Sieur la Salle, who discovered that river in 1682. It seems that father Hennepin forgot that this river was previously discovered by Ferdinand de Soto in 1541, also by Col. Wood in 1654, and by Captain Bolt in 1670. Monsieur de la Salle was the first who traversed that river. In the spring of the same year 1682, he passed down to the mouths of the Mississippi; he afterwards remounted that river, and returned to Canada in the month of October following, from whence he took his passage to France, where he gave so flattering an account of the advantages that would certainly accrue from the settling a colony in those parts, that a company was formed for carrying those designs into execution, with a squadron consisting of four vessels; Arrival and
murder of la
Salle.
having

having on board a sufficient number of persons, and all kinds of goods and provisions, necessary for the service of the new colony, which he proposed to fix at or near the mouth of the Mississippi. But having sailed beyond the mouth of the river, he attempted to fix a colony at the bay of St. Bernard, where he arrived the 18th of February 1684, about 100 leagues westward of the Mississippi. There his men underwent such hardships that most of them perished miserably. The leader, animated with an ardent desire of extending his discoveries, made various excursions with such of them who were able to travel; but on the 19th of March 1687, two of his men villainously murdered him, when exploring the interior parts of the country, in search of mines, and of the tract which led to those of St. Barbe in New Mexico.

Ibberville's
Arrival.

About seven years after, Mons. Ibberville, a respectable officer in the French navy, undertook to execute whatever La Salle had promised; and his reputation being established already, the court intrusted him with the conduct of the project. He carried his people very safely to the mouth of the great river, and there laid the foundation of the first colony the French ever had in the Mississippi. He took care to provide them with every thing necessary for their subsistence, and obliged them to erect a fort, for their defence against the Indians. This being done, he returned to France in order to obtain supplies.

The success of his voyage made him extremely welcome at court, and he was soon in a condition to put to sea again. His second voyage was as fortunate as the first; but very unluckily for his colony, he died whilst he was preparing for the third. The design might have been abandoned, had not Crozat, a private man of an immense fortune, undertaken its support at his own expence. In 1712, the King gave him Louisiana. Thus Lewis imitated the Pope, who

Louisiana
granted to Cro-
zat.

who divided between the kings of Spain and Portugal the territories of America, where the holy see had not one inch of ground.

In this grant the bounds are fixed by the Illinois river and the lake of that name on the North; by Carolina on the East, the gulph of Mexico on the South, and New Mexico on the West. As to Canada, or New France, the French court would scarcely admit it had any other northern boundary than the Pole. The avidity of Great Britain was equal, but France having been unfortunate in the war of 1710, the northern boundary of Canada was fixed by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713. It assigns New Britain and Hudson's Bay, on the North of Canada, to Great Britain; and commissioners afterwards on both sides ascertained the limits by an imaginary line, running from a cape or promontory in New Britain to the Atlantic ocean, in 58 degrees 30 minutes North latitude, thence South-west to the lake Misgofink or Mistafim; from thence farther South-west directly to the latitude of 49 degrees. All the lands to the North of the imaginary line, being assigned to Great Britain; and all southward of that line, as far as the river of St. Laurence, to the French. These were at that time the true limits of Louisiana and Canada, Crozat's grant not subsisting long after the death of Lewis XIV.

Bounds of
Louisiana.

Limits of
Louisiana and
Canada by the
treaty of
Utrecht.

In order to have some plausible pretence for setting on foot a project for changing the face of public affairs in France, this settlement was thought the most convenient; and therefore all imaginable pains were taken to represent it as a paradise, and place from whence inexhaustible riches might be derived, provided due encouragement could be obtained from government. For this purpose it was thought requisite that a new company should be erected, to make way for which Mr. Crozat was to resign his grant; which he did accordingly.

Crozat's grant
vacated.

This

This occasioned the noise that was made about the Mississippi, not in France only, but throughout all Europe, which was filled with romantic stories of the vast fruitfulness of the banks of this great river, and the incredible wealth that was likely to flow from thence; and those accounts, though true in part, in the end proved ruinous to many.

Sounds of
Louisiana
before the
peace of 1762.

Before the treaty of peace in 1762, Louisiana, or the southern part of New France, extended in the French maps from the gulph of Mexico, in about 29 degrees, to near 45 degrees of North latitude, on the West of the Mississippi, and to near 39 degrees on its eastern bank. Its boundaries were Canada on the North; New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and the North-west part of the easternmost peninsula of Florida, on the East; the Gulf of Mexico on the South; and lastly the kingdom of New Mexico on the West.

Absurd claims.

The European states having observed that kings and republicks claimed the sovereignty of every tract which had been seen, and were pretended to have been discovered by navigators sailing under their flags, their geographers were not permitted to publish maps which might have contradicted such wild claims. This was the absurdity of former days. But political circumstances often emboldened pretenders to urge their chimerical rights; and their no less chimerical opponents then yielded what they had no better right to cede. But the absurd recognition of such absurd pretensions is but a temporary compliance. It ever did and ever will sow the seeds of implacable animosities and contentions, until pre-occupancy and cultivation, the true tests of lawful possession, shall have remedied the former invalidity of the claim.

Both sides of the Mississippi continued under the dominion of his most Christian Majesty till the peace of 1762, when the eastern side was ceded to the king of
Great

Great Britain by the 7th article of the definitive treaty, in the following words. "In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove for ever all subject of dispute with regard to the limits of the British and French territories on the continent of America, it is agreed, that for the future, the confines between the dominions of his Britannic Majesty, in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, to the sea; and for this purpose the most Christian King cedes in full right, and guaranties to his Britannic Majesty, the river and port of the Mobile, and every thing which he possesses, or ought to possess, on the left side of the river Mississippi, except the town of New Orleans, and the island in which it is situated, which shall remain to France; provided that the navigation of the river Mississippi shall be equally free, as well to the subjects of Great Britain, as to those of France, in its whole length, from its source to the sea, and expressly that part which is between the said island of New Orleans, and the right bank of that river, as well as the passage both in and out of its mouth: it is further stipulated that the vessels belonging to the subjects of either nation, shall not be stopped, visited, or subjected to the payment of any duty whatsoever. The stipulations inserted in the 4th article, in favour of the inhabitants of Canada, shall also take place with regard to the inhabitants of the countries ceded by this article."

Division line
between the
French and
English in
1762.

In the year 1762, and the day before the preliminary articles to the peace were signed, his Christian Majesty ceded to Spain all his territories on the western side of the Mississippi, together with the town of

The cession of
his Christian
Majesty to
Spain.

New Orleans, and the peninsula in which it is situated on the eastern bank. But the inhabitants of Louisiana were ignorant of this cession before the year 1764, when Mr. D'Abbadie, then governor, published the king's letter to him on that subject, mentioning the date of the cession, and containing a declaration that he had stipulated with Spain that the French laws and usages should not be altered.

Bounds by the
Definitive
Treaty of
1783.

The definitive treaty, between Great-Britain and the United States of America, signed at Paris the 3d day of September 1783, runs as follows :

“ARTICLE 1. His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to be free, sovereign, and independent states ; that he treats with them as such, and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, property, and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof.

“ART. 2. And that all disputes which might arise in future, on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States, may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz. From the North-west angle of Nova-Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due North from the source of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the said Highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Laurence from those which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the North-westernmost head of Connecticut river ; thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of North latitude ; from thence by a line due West on said latitude, until it strikes the river Irriquois or Cataraqui ; thence along the

the middle of the said river into Lake Ontario; through the middle of the said lake until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into Lake Erie, through the middle of said lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron, thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior, northward of the Isles Royal and Phelipeaux to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods, thence through the said Lake to the most North-western point thereof, and from thence on a due West course to the river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of North latitude. South, by a line to be drawn due East from the determination of the line last mentioned in the latitude of thirty-one degrees North of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catanouche: thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint-River: thence straight to the head of St. Mary's River: and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's River to the Atlantic ocean: East, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the River St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly North to the aforesaid Highlands which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic ocean from those which fall into the River St. Laurence, comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due East from the points where the aforesaid boundaries

boundaries between Nova-Scotia on the one part, and East-Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic ocean, excepting such islands as now are or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova-Scotia.

“ART. 8. The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall for ever remain free and open to the subjects of Great Britain, and the citizens of the United States.”

Having mentioned all the boundaries that were at different periods assigned to Louisiana, the conduct of the Spaniards on possessing themselves of that colony, is to be considered next in course.

Arrival of
Don Ulloa at
New Orleans
with soldiers.

Don Antonio Ulloa arrived at New Orleans about the middle of the year 1766, but deferred to take possession of the government of the colony in his Catholic Majesty's name, until he had received special orders to that effect.

In the beginning of the year 1767, two thousand Spanish soldiers were sent from the Havanna, but he did not then take possession of the country. He sent however about sixty of these troops to erect two forts, one opposite to the British fort, named Bute, on the mouth of the Iberville, and the other on the western side of the Mississippi, a little below the Natchez, where a detachment of British troops had taken post; another party was sent in the autumn of 1767 to build a fort at the mouth of the river Missouri; but the commandant had positive orders not to interfere with the civil government of the Illinois country, where Mons. de Saint Ange the French commandant continued to command with about twenty French soldiers. Don Antonio Ulloa, without taking possession in his Catholic Majesty's name, and consequently without authority from France or Spain, established monopolies, restricted commerce, and committed several abuses, which rendered him odious

to the colonists. At last, on the 29th of October 1768, the council issued a decree to oblige him and the principal Spanish officers to leave the province in November following, notwithstanding M. Aubry's remonstrances, and the protest he made against the edict of the council.

Spaniards obliged to depart from Louisiana.

Don Ulloa's conduct had rendered him the more obnoxious, as, from the letter written by the king of France, acquainting Mr. D'Abbadie with the cession he had made to Spain, it appeared that the two kings had agreed, that Louisiana should retain her laws, privileges and customs. The French, nay the Spaniards themselves, all blamed Mr. Aubry's acquiescence; for every one was sensible that the king of France never would have directed him to treat Don Ulloa with an obsequiousness which degraded royal authority and the French nation; and that his instructions could, at most, authorise Mr. Aubry to follow that officer's advice, until the government of Louisiana should be delivered to Spain. Whatever entreaties had been used to persuade Don Ulloa to take possession, and by that measure render the exercise of his authority lawful, he evaded, but did not cease to oppress; so that he lost the esteem which he had acquired by the publication of his voyages; and the colonists having been informed of the severity with which he had governed the city of Quito in Peru, he was only considered as a tyrant, whose sole merit was to be learned in the mathematics.

Don Ulloa obnoxious to the people.

The superior council, guided by the Intendant and the Attorney General, having threatened him with a prosecution, he declared that, at the Balize, Mr. Aubry had privately delivered to him the command of the colony. As none could conceive that a clandestine possession ought to authorise the public exercise of sovereign power, Ulloa's declaration was judged an artifice of the grossest texture; and Mr. Aubry, who

Threatened with a prosecution.

Doubts of the
public respect-
ing his con-
duct.

who affirmed the declaration to be true, was not believed. It made him fall into contempt, and emboldened the leaders of the party which opposed him. These increased the doubts of the public relative to the cession, and served to convince every one, that the Spaniards did not seriously intend taking possession :---
 “ The cession,” said they, “ was made in 1762, the day before the preliminary articles of peace were signed : near two years elapsed before it was first known by the king’s letter to Mr. D’Abbadie : more than another year passed before the arrival of Don Ulloa, who has been above two years in the country and did not yet take possession.” If the reflections occasioned by these circumstances put together ; if the conjectures scattered in the English news-papers, or by the English who came into the country, led the inhabitants to think that the cession was fictitious, and a state manœuvre, their fears were at the same time quieted, since they did not apprehend those evils which the change of sovereignty makes almost unavoidable, even when the new government is milder and more favourable. On the other hand, their indignation was the greater against Don Ulloa, who abused the reasons of state that were supposed to be the cause of his having been sent to Louisiana ; who availed himself of Mr. Aubry’s imbecility, to establish a species of despotism, the more intolerant, as it shocked the manners of the French nation.

Their want
of circumspec-
tion.

To put a stop to this tyranny, it would have been sufficient to commence, with circumspection, a juridical prosecution against him, and inform the ministry of the proceedings. But the council began by issuing a decree for expelling him and the Spaniards. To reduce the people to the necessity of supporting that violence, the leaders excited them to offend the king of Spain, from whom they had received no injury, and who doubtless would have punished his officer,

ficer, had the council proceeded with respect, and used lawful means to transmit to him their grievances. But, indignities were offered to the Spanish flag; a step which rendered the insult personal to the king of Spain, and made him overlook his envoy's misdeemeanors. This is not all: the council and the inhabitants sent deputies to France, charged them to represent the grievances of the colony to their sovereign, and supplicate him to retain the province. Their prayers were accompanied with protestations of devotion and loyalty. But before the departure of these deputies, the leaders of the faction seduced some members of the council, secretly sent another deputation to Pensacola; and, without the people's knowledge, offered Louisiana to Great Britain!

Indignities,
&c. offered.

Deputies sent
to France—

The dread of being called to account, with which the crafty Don Ulloa had often threatened the Intendant and the Attorney General, that he might obstruct their prosecutions, and silence them, relatively to his own conduct, was doubtless the sole cause of that desperate step, the authors of which might have foreseen the unsuccessful issue, had they not been bereft of their senses. It is true that there has been no public inquiry on that head; and therefore, the public has no juridical proof of this fact; but the characteristics of such inquiry as was made, its terrifying apparatus, its result, and the concerted silence of those by whom it was directed, sufficiently confirm not only what is openly said among the English, but what the inhabitants of Louisiana whisper to each other, when complaining of their miseries with which the perfidiousness of their leaders had loaded them, though not accomplices of their crimes. It is also said, that the governor of West-Florida was unwilling to countenance the treason and revolt of the subjects of a prince then in peace with Great Britain: it is affirmed that he sent to Mr. Aubry the original
offers

offers he had received, and that Don Ulloa, who had not yet failed, carried them with him to Europe for his justification. Why then did not Mr. Aubry produce that paper to confound the conspirators? They would have been looked upon with execration by the people whom they had betrayed, and the disturbances would have immediately subsided. Can it be believed, that the governor of Florida insisted on secrecy, as it is intimated by some persons who would be glad to apologize for Mr. Aubry's conduct respecting this matter? Had the intestine divisions, which then rent the British colonies of North-America, induced the British governor to discover the conspiracy in order to prevent the fatal consequences of so dangerous an example, would not secrecy have deprived him of the only fruit he could expect from his policy?

—Never
heard of.

Monsieur de Sacier, one of the council, with two other Gentlemen of the colony, who were sent to France with the edict of the superior council, and to implore the protection of the king, as before mentioned, were imprisoned on their arrival, and have never been heard of since.

Gen. O'Ri-
ley's arrival
at the Balize.

During six months, which elapsed before news could be received from Europe, the unhappy colonists vainly flattered themselves with hopes of being justified for the steps they had taken by the court of France. On the 23d of July 1769, news was brought to New Orleans of the arrival of General O'Riley at the Balize, with eighteen transports, followed by ten more from the Havanna, having four thousand five hundred troops on board, and loaded with stores and ammunition. This intelligence threw the town into the greatest consternation and perplexity, as but a few days before, letters had arrived from Europe signifying that the colony was restored to France.

Inhabitants
determined to
oppose him.

In the general distraction that took place, the inhabitants of the town and the adjacent plantations determined

determined to oppose the landing of the Spaniards, and sent couriers requiring the Germans and Acadian Neutrals to join them. On the 24th an express arrived from General O'Riley, which was read by Monsieur Aubry to the people in church; by this they were informed that he was sent by his Catholic Majesty to take possession of the colony, but not to distress the inhabitants; and that when he should be in possession, he would publish the remaining part of the orders he had in charge from the king his master; and should any attempt be made to oppose his landing, he was resolved not to depart until he could put his majesty's commands in execution.

The people, dissatisfied with this ambiguous message, came to a resolution of sending three deputies to General O'Riley, viz. Messieurs Grandmaison town-major, La Friniere attorney-general, and De Mazant formerly captain in the colony's troops, and a man of very considerable property; these gentlemen acquainted him, that the inhabitants had come to a resolution of abandoning the province, and demanded no other favour than that he would grant them two years to remove themselves and effects. The general received the deputies with great politeness, but did not enter into the merits of their embassy, farther than assuring them, that he would comply with every reasonable request of the colonists; that he had the interest of their country much at heart, and nothing on his part should be wanting to promote it; that all past transactions should be buried in oblivion, and all who had offended should be forgiven: to this he added every thing that he imagined could flatter the expectations of the people. On the first of August the deputies returned, and made public the kind reception the general had given them, and the fair promises he had made. The minds of the people were now greatly tranquilized, and those who had before determined

Deputies sent
to meet him.

suddenly to quit their plantations now resolved to remain until their crops were off the ground.

His arrival & disembarking of the troops at New Orleans.

On the 16th of August 1769, General O'Riley with the frigate, transports and troops on board arrived opposite to New Orleans. On the 18th the troops disembarked, and the general took possession in form, of New Orleans and the province of Louisiana, in the name of his Catholic Majesty, as quietly as a French governor would have done in the happiest times; and on the 25th, ordered the attorney general and twelve others amongst the principal inhabitants to be arrested.

Attorney-General and others arrested.

Of these thirteen, no more than one was released: this was the printer, who produced the positive orders which the intendant had given him, for printing the decree issued against Don Ulloa, and several other writings. A few days before the proceedings began, a young gentleman nearly related to the attorney general, and one of the prisoners, feigned a design of forcibly rescuing himself from the soldiers who guarded him. He received several wounds, which gave him that death which he sought. The proceedings against the eleven others, were conducted in a military manner by Gen. O'Riley, and the members of the court were mostly Spanish officers. The council of war

Sentence of the Council of War.

pronounced their sentence on those proceedings. In vain did the attorney general and the other prisoners demand to be tried by the French laws. These would not have proved favourable to their accusers. General O'Riley was so unjust as to refuse that reasonable request. The attorney general and four others, who were shot with him, died with fortitude. Had they really deserved that fate, their condemnation is not the less criminal, in the eyes of those who are not stupid enough to reverence authority when trampling upon the laws. The sentence of the court martial dishonours the authors and tools of that injustice; it dishonours no others. The

The six other state prisoners were sent to fort Moro in the island of Cuba, whence they were released after one year's confinement. The estates of the eleven persons, who were condemned by the court martial, were confiscated, according to the practice of most countries; a practice as impolitic as it is unjust. It reflects disgrace on princes, occasions the impunity of the greatest crimes, and often multiplies the number of criminals. Many might be virtuous enough not to screen a guilty kinsman from justice; but few have sufficient magnanimity to see with indifference the estate of that kinsman pass into the prince's coffers, or those of his ministers. How many has not this sole reason seduced to engage in conspiracies or rebellions, which they would otherwise have wished to destroy: in such cases it frequently happens that the prince, whom confiscations cause to behold as an enemy, is deservedly opposed for his rapaciousness or inattention to his own interest.

The French beheld, with horror, their countrymen given up to foreigners, privately tried and arbitrarily punished, for crimes of which they were accused in a country subject to France. The indignity offered to Spain was the ostensible cause of their condemnation; but whatever their crime might have been, France alone ought to have had cognizance of it. If the accused were guilty of nothing else; or if, for state reasons, it was thought proper to mention that offence only, the king of Spain would have caused his name to be for ever blessed in the colony, had he, a judge in his own cause, generously forgiven. The measures that have been adopted, have produced a very different effect. They are nearly the same as those of the Portuguese government, which contrived Father Malagrida's being burnt by the inquisition, on the pretence of his having boasted that he had sometimes conversed with the Holy Virgin; but whose

The French beheld, with horror, their countrymen given up to foreigners.

real

real crime was an attempt against his sovereign's life, in order to make another family ascend the throne. Crimes like these, openly perpetrated by the administration against the laws, common sense and public safety ; can no where be palliated with the pretence of necessity. Whatever those who advise them may think on the subject, they betray their country and their sovereign himself. In free states, where the personal safety of the meanest individual is as interesting to the whole nation as that of the greatest, crimes of this kind are never seen. They can be committed in such countries only, where despotism is established ; where a few, favoured slaves, reduce the rest secretly to wish for the annihilation of those whom they seemingly adore.

Abolition of
the laws of
Louisiana.

The same disordered brains which projected the illegal prosecutions carried on against the factious leaders of Louisiana, have doubtless fancied, that they would deserve immortality for a masterly stroke of policy, when they procured the abolition of the laws, privileges, and superior council of Louisiana, under the pretence of a decree issued against Don Ulloa. Have they really thought that people could be deceived by names which were to represent nothing ? The shadow of a tribunal was established under the name of Cabildo government, that is civil government, but the governor and his assessor are in fact the only judges. Since the judgments given by them jointly have the same virtue as those of that Cabildo government, few are so unskilful as to apply to this tribunal. Nay, who would dare to do it except in trifling matters ? Was it likewise believed that, for the governor and his assessor's conveniency, the substituting of the Spanish language to the French, in all the juridical proceedings of Louisiana, where the inhabitants understand the French language only ; the impartial dispensation of justice, which is the true glory of the state, would

would thence be effectually promoted? Things will certainly go well, as long as governors and their assessors shall have all the qualifications that perfect judges ought to have, and whilst the parties can procure faithful interpreters: but it is as true that, wise as these regulations are boasted to be, they depopulate the colony.

General O'Riley confirmed all the decrees of the superior council, except that which had been issued against Don Ulloa. This was solemnly approving the seditious nomination of the members of Mr. Foucault's and the Attorney-General's making; it was therefore arrogantly annulling the protest which Mr. Aubry had entered in behalf of the king of France and the public, against that nomination, and all the decrees issued out of that tribunal during the anarchy; it was depriving those who had been oppressed from the hopes of obtaining redress in the colony. For, the council being abolished, how could any one take the benefit of the French laws, (since trials by peers or juries are refused) or think despotic rulers would allow of applying to sovereign courts for obtaining new trials of the causes, which they themselves may have tried illegally, or against evidence? But, to flatter the Spaniards, Gen. O'Riley had determined that they alone should be judges; and military men of that nation could not, with the least plausibility, pretend that they were acquainted with the French laws; he, therefore, had rather cut off than untie. Such is the disposition of tyrants of every rank and denomination; Alexander cutting the Gordian Knot is, perhaps, of all the fables that are confounded with history, that which more truly characterises despotism. Men who led by avarice and ambition obtain admittance to that order, disregarding the people to whose preservation they seem to have professedly devoted themselves, but who are determined on making their fortunes, are never disturbed

Gen. O'Riley confirms the decrees of the Superior Council.

The disposition of tyrants.

disturbed in the least about the means which can promote their grand design. Their eyes being fixed on all those who have a share in the dispensation of wealth and honours, they see them only. Their mercenary zeal prompts them to wish for their being entrusted with iniquitous and inhuman orders, which they alone are fit to execute. Strangers to nature, they are deaf to the voice of justice and the cries of humanity ; and, unable to rise by noble and generous actions, they glory in displaying their zeal for the prince, by wholly loading themselves with that public execration which attends the execution of sanguinary orders. It is not from such abject souls that a prince, inebriated with power, can ever learn that there are moments, not numerous indeed, but yet frequent enough to comfort the oppressed and chastise the oppressor---moments, when, after having made himself odious to his subjects ; after having weakened and degraded them, he may regret their attachment, the courage which despotism has endeavoured to enervate, and the patriotism which it has attempted to destroy.

Galvez takes possession of the British posts.

After this General Galvez Governor of New Orleans, in the year 1779, possessed himself of the British posts at the Iberville and Baton Rouge. By capitulation, the post at the Natchez was evacuated, and the garrison permitted to join the troops at Pensacola. The Spaniards likewise reduced the forts of Mobile and Pensacola ; the former in the year 1780, and the latter in 1781. The above conquests not only subjected the eastern side of the Mississippi, but the whole province of West-Florida to the dominion of Spain.

Having briefly touched on the principal revolutions which have happened in Louisiana, I shall now proceed with a short account of the Mississippi.

The safety and commercial prosperity which may be

be secured to the United States by the definitive treaty of peace, will chiefly depend upon the share of the navigation of the Mississippi which shall be allowed to them. Is it not amazing, true as it is, that few amongst us know this to be the key to the northern part of the western continent? It is the only channel through which that extensive region, bathed by its waters, and enriched by the many streams it receives, communicates with the sea. And here let us further observe, that the Mississippi river may truly be considered as the great passage made by the hand of nature for a variety of valuable purposes, but principally to promote the happiness and benefit of mankind; amongst which, the conveyance of the produce of that immense and fertile country, lying westward of the United States, down its stream to the Gulf of Mexico, is not the least. To expect the free navigation of the Mississippi is absurd, whilst the Spaniards are in possession of New Orleans, which commands the entrance to the western country above-mentioned; this is an idea calculated to impose only upon the weak. The Spaniards have forts on the Mississippi, and whenever they may think it consistent with their interest, they will make use of them to prevent our navigating on it. Treaties are not always to be depended on; the most solemn have been broken*: therefore we learn that no one should put much faith in the princes of any country: for he that trusts to any thing but the operation of their interest, is a poor politician; and he that complains of deceit, where there is an interest to deceive, will ever be considered as deficient in understanding.

Commercial advantages from the treaty of peace.

Account of the Mississippi.

The great length and uncommon depth of that river,

* Notwithstanding the free navigation of the Mississippi allowed by the treaty of 1762, General O'Riley, in the year 1769, sent a party of soldiers to cut the hawser of a British vessel called the Sea Flower, that had made fast to the bank of the river above the town of New Orleans; the order was obeyed, and the vessel narrowly escaped being lost.

river, and the excessive muddiness and salubrious quality of its waters, after its junction with the Mississippi, are very singular*. The direction of the channel is so crooked, that from New Orleans to the mouth of the Ohio, a distance which does not exceed 460 miles in a straight line, is about 856 by water. It may be shortened at least 250 miles, by cutting across eight or ten necks of land, some of which are not 30 yards wide. Charlevoix relates that in the year 1722, at Point Coupé or Cut Point, the river made a great turn, and some Canadians, by deepening the channel of a small brook, diverted the waters of the river into it. The impetuosity of the stream was so violent and the soil of so rich and loose a quality that, in a short time, the point was entirely cut through, and travellers saved 14 leagues of their voyage. The old bed has no water in it, the times of the periodical overflowings only excepted. The new channel has been since founded with a line of thirty fathoms, without finding bottom.

In the spring floods the Mississippi is very high, and the current so strong that with difficulty it can be ascended; but that disadvantage is compensated by eddies or counter-currents, which always run in the bends close to the banks of the river with nearly equal velocity against the stream, and assist the ascending boats. The current at this season descends at the rate of about five miles an hour. In autumn, when the waters are low, it does not run faster than two miles, but it is rapid in such parts of the river, which have clusters of islands, shoals and sand-banks. The circumference of many of these shoals being several

* In a half pint tumbler of this water has been found a sediment of two inches of slime. It is, notwithstanding, extremely wholesome and well tasted, and very cool in the hottest seasons of the year; the rowers who are then employed drink of it when they are in the strongest perspiration, and never receive any bad effects from it. The inhabitants of New Orleans use no other water than that of the river, which by keeping in jars becomes perfectly clear.

veral miles, the voyage is longer and in some parts more dangerous than in the spring. The merchandize necessary for the commerce of the upper settlements on or near the Mississippi, is conveyed in the spring and autumn in batteaux rowed by 18 or 20 men, and carrying about 40 tons. From New Orleans to the Illinois, the voyage is commonly performed in eight or ten weeks. A prodigious number of islands, some of which are of great extent, intersperse that mighty river. Its depth increases as you ascend it. Its waters, after overflowing its banks below the river Ibberville, never return within them again. These singularities distinguish it from every other known river in the world. Below New Orleans the land begins to be very low on both sides of the river across the country, and gradually declines as it approaches nearer to the sea. This point of land which in the treaty of peace in 1762, is mistaken for an island, is to all appearance of no long date; for in digging ever so little below the surface, you find water and great quantities of trees. The many beaches and breakers, as well as inlets, which arose out of the channel within the last half century, at the several mouths of the river, are convincing proofs that this peninsula was wholly formed in the same manner. And it is certain that when La Salle sailed down the Mississippi to the sea, the opening of that river was very different from what it is at present.

The nearer you approach to the sea, this truth becomes more striking. The bars that cross most of these small channels, opened by the current, have been multiplied by means of the trees carried down with the streams; one of which stopped by its roots or branches, in a shallow part, is sufficient to obstruct the passage of thousands more, and to fix them at the same place. Such collections of trees are daily seen between the Balize and the Missouri, which singly

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would

would supply the largest city in Europe, with fuel for several years. No human force being sufficient for removing them, the mud carried down by the river serves to bind and cement them together. They are gradually covered, and every inundation not only extends their length and breadth, but adds another layer to their height. In less than ten years time, canes and shrubs grow on them, and form points and islands, which forcibly shift the bed of the river.

Nothing can be asserted, with certainty, respecting its length. Its source is not known, but supposed to be upwards of 3000 miles from the sea as the river runs. We only know that, from St. Anthony's falls, it glides with a pleasant clear stream, and becomes comparatively narrow before its junction with the Missouri, the muddy waters of which immediately discolour the lower part of the river to the sea. Its rapidity, breadth, and other peculiarities then begin to give it the majestic appearance of the Missouri which affords a more extensive navigation, and is a longer, broader and deeper river than the Mississippi. It has been ascended by French traders about twelve or thirteen hundred miles, and from the depth of water, and breadth of the river at that distance, it appeared to be navigable many miles further.

From the Missouri river to nearly opposite the Ohio, the western bank of the Mississippi is (some few places excepted) higher than the eastern. From Mine au fer to the Iberville, the eastern bank is higher than the western, on which there is not a single discernable rising or eminence, the distance of 750 miles. From the Iberville to the sea, there are no eminences on either side, though the eastern bank appears rather the higher of the two, as far as the English turn. Thence the banks gradually diminish in height to the mouths of the river, where they are not two or three feet higher than the common surface of the water.

The

The slime which the annual floods of the river Mississippi leaves on the surface of the adjacent shores, may be compared with that of the Nile, which deposits a similar manure, and for many centuries past has insured the fertility of Egypt. When its banks shall have been cultivated as the excellency of its soil and temperature of the climate deserve, its population will equal that, or any other part of the world. The trade, wealth and power of America will at some future period, depend and perhaps center upon the Mississippi. This also resembles the Nile in the number of its mouths, all issuing into a sea that may be compared to the Mediterranean, which is bounded on the North and South by the two continents of Europe and Africa, as the Mexican bay is by North and South America. The smaller mouths of this river might be easily stopped up, by means of those floating trees with which the river during the floods is always covered. The whole force of the channel being united, the only opening then left would probably grow deep as well as the bar.

Comparison
with the Nile.

Probability of
deepening the
channel.

To judge of the produce to be expected from the soil of Louisiana, let us turn our eyes to Egypt, Arabia Felix, Persia, India, China, and Japan, all lying in correspondent latitudes. Of these China alone has a tolerable government; and yet it must be acknowledged they all are, or have been, famous for their riches and fertility. When our wandering imagination soars to regions of wealth and terrestrial bliss, it delights in resting on those countries we have just mentioned.

Produce of
Louisiana.

Louisiana is agreeably situated between the extremes of heat and cold. Its climate varies as it extends towards the North. The southern parts, lying within the reach of the refreshing breezes from the sea, are not scorched like those under the same latitudes in Africa; and its northern regions are colder than those

Its pleasant
climate.

those of Europe under the same parallels, with a wholesome serene air, very similar to the South of France and Lisbon. New Orleans, situated in 30d. 2 m. which nearly answers to the northern coasts of Barbary and Egypt, enjoys the same temperature of climate with Marseilles. Not quite two degrees higher in the country of the Natchez, the climate is much more uniform and temperate than at New Orleans. And in the country of the Illinois, which lies about 37 degrees, the summer season is nearly the same as at Paris in France.

Objections to
the navigati-
on of the
Mississippi
removed.

An objection has been often made by misinformed men, otherwise of great abilities, who too credulously believed that the navigation of the Mississippi river, on account of its rapid current, was more difficult than it is in reality. It appears from the calculation made by several skilful and experienced travellers, that in the autumn when the waters are low, the current descends at the rate of about one and a half or two miles in an hour; and that the waters are in this state more than one half of the year. In the spring when the freshes are up, or at their greatest height, the current runs at the rate of five or six miles. It is true that the navigation would be difficult at that season, to those who sail or row up against the stream; but there is no example of such folly. When the waters of this river are high, the commodities and produce of the interior country are gathered and prepared for exportation with the descending current. And when the waters are low, the produce of the interior country is growing to maturity. This is the time for the navigator's importation. Great advantages are likewise taken then from eddy currents. At present there are few builders skilful enough to construct vessels better calculated for that navigation, than those already mentioned. Time and experience will doubtless produce improvements, and render the navigation

vigation of this river nearly as cheap as any other. But that the Mississippi can answer every purpose of trade and commerce, is proved to a demonstration, by the rapid progress the French, German, and Acadian inhabitants on that river, have made. They have attained a state of opulence never before so soon acquired in any new country. And this was effected under all the discouragements of an indolent and rapacious government. It may be further asserted, that no country in North-America, or perhaps in the universe, exceeds the neighbourhood of the Mississippi in fertility of soil and temperature of climate. Both sides of this river are truly remarkable for the very great diversity and luxuriance of their productions. They might probably be brought, from the favourableness of the climate, to produce two annual crops of Indian corn as well as rice, and with little cultivation would furnish grain of every kind in the greatest abundance. But this value is not confined to the fertility and immensity of champaign lands; their timber is as fine as any in the world, and the quantities of live and other oak, ash, mulberry, walnut, cherry, cypress, and cedar, are astonishing. The neighbourhood of the Mississippi, besides, furnishes the richest fruits in great variety, particularly grapes, oranges, and lemons in the highest perfection. It produces silk, cotton, saffrafs, saffron and rhubarb; is peculiarly adapted for hemp and flax, and in goodness of tobacco equals the Brazils; and indigo is at this present a staple commodity, which commonly yields the planter from three to four cuttings. In a word, whatever is rich or rare in the most desirable climates in Europe, seems natural to such a degree on the Mississippi; that France, though she sent few or no emigrants into Louisiana but decayed soldiers, or persons in indigent circumstances, (and these very poorly supplied with the implements of husbandry) soon began

Its advantages
for trade and
commerce.

Equal to any
country in
North-Ame-
rica.

Soil and situation triumph over political restraints.

began to dread a rival in her colony, particularly in the cultivation of vines, from which she prohibited the colonists under a very heavy penalty ; yet soil and situation triumphed over all political restraints, and the adventurers, at the end of the war in 1762, were very little inferior to the most ancient settlements of America in all the modern refinements of luxury.

River Mississippi furnishes fish.

The Mississippi furnishes in great plenty several sorts of fish, particularly perch, pike, sturgeon, eel, and calts of a monstrous size. Craw-fish abound in this country ; they are in every part of the earth, and when the inhabitants chuse a dish of them, they send to their gardens where they have a small pond dug for that purpose, and are sure of getting as many as they have occasion for. A dish of shrimps is as easily procured : by hanging a small canvas bag with a bit of meat in it to the bank of the river, and letting it drop a little below the surface of the water, in a few hours a sufficient quantity will have got into the bag. Shrimps are found in the Mississippi as far as the Natchez, 348 miles from the sea.

Description of the coast and islands about the mouths of the Mississippi.

Having glanced at the many advantages that will result from the cultivation and improvement of the lands in the neighbourhood of the Mississippi, we now proceed with a description of the coasts and islands about the mouths of that river with directions to mariners.

The coast here is very low and marshy, and it would be difficult to find the entrances of that river, were it not for the houses at the old and new Balize, and the flag staff at the former, which appear some distance at sea. The white clayey colour of the river water remaining unmixed on the surface, is another indication that the Mississippi is not far distant ; and though it may be alarming to strangers, as it was to myself when I first beheld it, as it has the appearance of a shoal, yet the soundings are much deeper off the Mississippi than any where else on the coast. It

It is an observation said to be founded on experience, that where the water of the Mississippi incorporates with, and apparently loses itself in the bay of Mexico, the current divides, and generally sets north-easterly and south-westerly, but out of soundings the currents are in a great measure governed by the winds; and if they are not attended to, vessels may be driven south-westward beyond the Balize into the bay of St. Bernard, which is reported to be full of shoals, and consequently a very dangerous navigation.

To come to an anchor off the Balize, vessels approaching the land ought to bring the old Balize to bear about W by S, and the new Balize nearly W N W; they will then be about two miles distant from, and opposite to the East pass, or mouth, in 13 or 14 fathom water: and the strong N E and S E winds always occasion great swells off the Balize, yet when anchored as above directed they may ride in safety; except a S E wind, which is the most dangerous, as it blows directly on shore, should come on so violent as to part them from their anchors, and prevent their carrying sail; in which case, if care has not been taken to obtain a good offing, they will drift either on the mud banks into the pass *ala Loutre*, which has only eight feet water, or into the bay Britton, where they will be in a critical situation, on account of the shoal water for which that bay is remarkable.

Directions to
Mariners.

The best precaution against the consequences of a south-east wind will be to get under way before the strength of the gale comes on, and to steer about N by W half W for the island called Grand Gosier distant 7 leagues. In sailing round the south westernmost part of which, care should be taken to steer clear of a shoal that runs out from it W S W about two miles, which being passed, vessels should luff up, until the S W end of the island bears nearly S E two miles; there

Precautions.

there is then good anchoring in three and an half fathoms soft bottom.

There is another safe anchoring place in 2 fathom water, just within the S W point of the Isle au Briton; from the S W end of which a shoal runs out nearly half a mile. This island is about a league to the westward of the Grand Gosier, and there is good anchoring between them in 3 and 4 fathoms.

If a south-east gale should happen at night, it would be impossible to see the way between the above islands. In that case, a N N E course from the mouths of the Mississippi will clear the chandelures, situated about 3 leagues to the north-ward of the Isle au Grand Gosier, which are better than 9 leagues in length. As all the above islands are low and have no trees growing on them, they cannot be seen at any distance. On that account it will be necessary when sailing towards them, to keep a good look out. There is drift wood on these islands, and fresh water may be got by digging. The water between the chandelures and the peninsula of Orleans is full of shoals, and the navigation fit only for small craft.

Mouths of
the Mississippi
how formed.

The river Mississippi discharges itself into the gulph of Mexico by several mouths of different depths of water: in the year 1772, that called the south-east in latitude 29 d 10 m North, and longitude 89 d 10 m West from London afforded 12 feet; the East mouth, which before the above period furnished 15 feet, had then no more than 10 and an half feet; and the north-east only 9 and an half feet on the bar of it. The latter now affords 12 feet, and S W has sixteen feet. The bars are subject to shift; but immediately after entering the river, there is from 3 to 7, 8 and 10 fathoms as far as the south-west pass, and from thence 12, 15, 20 and 30 fathoms is the general depth for 1142 computed miles to the Missouri river.

The

The shoals about the Mississippi are formed from the trees, mud, leaves, and a variety of other matter continually brought down by the waters of the river, which being forced along by the current, until repelled by the tides, then subside, and occasion what are commonly called the bars: their distance from the entrances of the river, which is generally about 2 miles, depend much on the winds being accidentally with or against the tides: when these bars accumulate sufficiently to resist the tides and the current of the river, they form numerous small islands, which by constantly increasing, join to each other and at last reach the continent.

All the land bordering the mouths of the Mississippi has been made in this manner. It is more than probable that the whole of the country on both sides of the river as far as the Iberville, a distance of 204 miles, has been produced in a succession of ages by the vast quantities of mud, trees, leaves &c. brought down by the annual floods which overflow the banks of the Mississippi; the large trunks or bodies of trees which have been frequently found in digging in the above distance, seems to confirm this opinion; and it may reasonably be supposed, that the lakes on each side of this river are parts of the sea not yet filled up: thus the land is annually raised and constantly gains on the sea. The old Balize, a small port erected by the French on a little island, was in the year 1734, at the mouth of the river, it is now two miles above it. In the year 1766, Don Antonio D'Ulloa erected some barracks on a small island, the new Balize, (to which he gave the name of St. Carlos) for the convenience of pilots, and other purposes, being near the south-east entrance of the river, and a more dry and higher situation than any thereabouts. There was not the least appearance of this island 30 years ago*.

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* Whatever doubts may arise respecting the above account, there are not

Old and New
Balize.

The old and new Balize were formerly very considerable posts, with 3 or 4 cannon in each, and garrisoned by a subaltern's command. Such are their situations that they neither defend the Mississippi, nor the deepest channel into it, and appear to have been established only for the purposes of assisting vessels coming into the river, and forwarding intelligence or dispatches to New Orleans.

In ascending
the Mississippi.

In ascending the Mississippi there are extensive natural meadows, with a prospect of the sea, on both sides, most part of the distance to the Detour aux Plaquemines, which is 32 miles: from thence to the settlements 20 miles further, the whole is a continued tract of low and marshy grounds, generally overflowed, and covered with thick wood, Palmetto bushes, &c. which appear almost impenetrable to either man or beast. From thence the banks of the river are well inhabited to the Detour des Anglois, where
the

Detour les
Anglois.

not instances wanting to prove that some other parts of the earth have been formed in a similar manner, as will appear by the following facts.

Havre de Grace is situated in the Pays de Caux, about 18 leagues from Rouen, and as much from Dieppe, on the point of a large valley at the mouth of the river Seine, in the latitude of 49 degrees 30 minutes North. It stands upon a plain spot of ground, full of morasses, and crossed by a great number of creeks, and ditches full of water, which contribute not a little to its security. This ground was originally gained out of the sea, and formed from the large quantities of sand, gravel, and mud, which the force of the tide and the river conveyed to that place in a long course of time and by insensible degrees. And as it was formed, so it seems to be daily increased by the same means: for we are assured by a late author*, that about 70 or 80 years ago, the sea, at high water, came very near that gate of the city which is next the harbour; whereas now the high water mark is nearly half a mile distant from it. So that it appears, the sea has gradually given way, and, as it were, retired to leave the earth at liberty to enlarge and extend itself. Nor ought we to be surprised at this. The ground on which the city of Tyre is built, though now united to the continent, being formerly part of an island. Venice would have had the same fate long ago, had it not been for the great pains the inhabitants have taken to prevent it: the sea formerly washed the walls of Ravenna, which is now a league distant from it; nor are other instances of this kind wanting, even in the same kingdom of France, particularly Frejus and Narbonne, a few centuries ago, were on the shore of the Mediterranean; but now the one is a league, and the other almost two, distant from it.—Description de la Haute Normandie, tom. i. p. 193.

* Piganiol de la Force, Nouvelle description de la France, tom. ix. page 593.

the circular direction of the river is so very considerable that vessels cannot pass it with the same wind that conducted them to it, and must either wait for a favourable wind, or make fast to the bank, and haul close, there being sufficient depth of water for any vessel that can enter the river. The two forts and batteries at this place, one of each, on both sides of the river, are more than sufficient to stop the progress of any vessel whatever*. The distance from hence to New Orleans is 18 miles. The Banks of the river are settled and well cultivated, and there is a good road for carriages all the way.

Nothing with certainty can be determined respecting the time a vessel may take in sailing from the Balize to New Orleans, a distance of 105 miles. With favourable winds the voyage has been performed in 3 or 4, but it generally takes 7 or 8 days, and sometimes two or three weeks. There is always shoal water near the low points of land covered with willows. In approaching them, a few casts of the lead will be necessary; and in several places there are trees fixed with one end in the bottom, and the other just below the surface of the river, and in the same direction with the current, which by continual friction of the water, are reduced to a point; and as there are instances of vessels sailing with force against them being run through their bottoms, and sinking immediately after, too much care cannot be taken to avoid them. Attention should also be paid to keep clear of the trees floating down the river during the floods†.

The

* Doctor Cox of New Jersey ascended the Mississippi to this place in the year 1698, took possession, and called the country Carolina.

† It is impossible to anchor without being exposed to the danger of the great trees, which frequently come down with the current, but more especially at the time of the floods, which if any of them should come athwart hawse, would most probably drive in the bows of the vessel;
and

The water is every where deep enough (except at the Willow Points) to admit vessels close to either shore, where instead of letting go an anchor, which would probably be lost among the logs sunk in the bottom of the river, vessels may safely make fast to the trees on the bank; which are generally tall and in such abundance, in some parts, that they prevent the winds from being of that service to vessels in ascending the Mississippi, that might be expected. It will be therefore necessary for expedition sake, to rig as many topsails as possible, which commonly reach above the trees and are of more use than all the other sails together; however, care must be taken to stand by the halliards to prevent the wind, which frequently comes in very strong puffs, from carrying away the top-masts, sails, &c.

Town and
fortifications
of New Orleans.

The town of New Orleans, the metropolis of Louisiana, was regularly laid out by the French in the year 1720, is situated on the East side of the river in 30 d 2 m North latitude, 105 miles from the Balize, as already mentioned; all the streets are perfectly straight but too narrow, and cross each other at right angles. There are betwixt seven and eight hundred houses in this town, generally built with timber frames raised about eight feet from the ground, with large galleries round them, and the cellars under the floors level with the ground: any subteraneous buildings would be constantly full of water. Most of the houses, have gardens. Exclusive of slaves, there are about seven thousand inhabitants of both sexes. The fortification is only a line of sloopades, with bastions of the

and there is a certainty of losing the anchors, as the bottom of the river is very soft mud, covered with sunk logs. this points out the impossibility for vessels to navigate upon the Mississippi, unless they are permitted to make fast to the shore; and no vessel can be said to enjoy the free navigation of the river, if deprived of this necessary privilege.

the same materials, on three sides, a banquet within, and a very trifling ditch without, and is only a defence against musquetry. The side next the river is open, and is secured from the inundation of the river by a raised bank, generally called the *Levéé*, which extends from the English Turn, or the *Detour des Anglois*, to the upper settlements of the Germans, a distance of more than 50 miles, with a good road all the way. There is reason to believe the period is not very distant when New Orleans may become a great and opulent city, if we consider the advantages of its situation, but a few leagues from the sea, on a noble river, in a most fertile country, under a most delightful and wholesome climate, within two weeks sail of Mexico by sea, and still nearer the French Spanish and British islands in the West Indies, with a moral certainty of its becoming a general receptacle for the produce of that extensive and valuable country on the Mississippi, Ohio, and its other branches; all which are much more than sufficient to ensure the future wealth, power and prosperity of this city.

It may become a great and opulent city.

The vessels which sail up the Mississippi haul close along side the bank next to Orleans, to which they make fast, and take in or discharge their cargoes with the same ease as from a wharf.

Easy loading and unloading vessels.

From New Orleans there is a very easy communication with West-Florida, by means of the Bayouk of St. John, a little creek which is navigable for vessels drawing about four feet water six miles up from the lake Ponchartrain, where there is a landing-place, at which vessels load and unload: this is about two miles from the town. The entrance of the Bayouk of St. John is defended by a battery of five or six cannon. There are some plantations on the Bayouk, and on the road from thence to New Orleans.

Canes-Brulé, Chapitoula, and the German settlements join each other, and are a continuation of well-

Canes-Brulé, Chapitoula, and the German settlements.

well-cultivated plantations, of near fifty miles from New Orleans, on each side of the river. At the German settlements, on the West side of the river, is a church served by the Capuchins. There was formerly a small stockaded fort in the centre of the settlements on the East side of the river: this post was originally erected as an asylum for the inhabitants who first settled there, and were much molested by the Chactaws and Chickasaws, who in alliance carried on a war against the settlers on the Mississippi. Their entry into this part of the colony was very easy, as they went up a small creek, Tigahoe, in canoes. The entrance of this creek, which is in the lake Pontchartrain, was defended by a small redoubt, since in ruins.

Produce of the
plantations,
&c.

The produce of the plantations, commencing below the English Turn, and continuing to the upper settlements of the Germans, form a very considerable part of the commerce of this country; the different articles are indigo, cotton, rice, beans, myrtle-wax and lumber. The indigo is much esteemed for its beautiful colour and good quality; the colour is brighter than that which is fabricated at St. Domingo. The cotton formerly cultivated, though of a most perfect white, is of a very short staple, and is therefore not in great request. The different sorts of beans, rice, and myrtle candles, are articles in constant demand at St. Domingo.

Sugar made
with success.

In the year 1762, several of the richest planters begun the cultivation of sugar, and erected mills to press the canes; the sugar produced was of a very fine quality, and some of the crops were very large: but no dependance can be had on this article, as some years the winters are too cold, and kill the canes in the ground.

Slaves how
employed in
autumn.

In the autumn, the planters employ their slaves in cutting down and squaring timber, for sawing into boards

boards and scantling. The carriage of this timber is very easy, for those who cut it at the back of their plantations make a ditch, which is supplied with water from the back swamps, and by that means conduct their timber to the river with very little labour: others send their slaves up to the cypress swamps, of which there are a great many between New Orleans and Point Coupé. There they make rafts of the timber they cut, and float down to New Orleans. Many of the planters have saw-mills, which are worked by the waters of the Mississippi, in the time of the floods, and then they are kept going night and day till the waters fall. The quantity of lumber sent from the Mississippi to the West India islands is prodigious, and it generally goes to a good market.

About 60 miles from New Orleans are the villages of the Humas and Alibamas. The former were once a considerable nation of Indians, but are reduced now to about 25 warriors; the latter consists of about 30, being part of a nation which lived near fort Toulouse, on the river Alabama, and followed the French when they abandoned that post in the year 1762. Three miles further up is the Fourche de Chetimachas, near which is the village of a tribe of Indians of the same name; they reckon about 27 warriors.

Villages of the
Humas and
Alibamas.

Fourche de
Chetimachas.

It is truly surprising, that the nations who have successively possessed Louisiana, never endeavoured to obtain an exact knowledge of the sea coast westward of the mouths of the Mississippi. The many difficulties and dangers to which vessels are exposed in making, and getting over the shallow and shifting bars of that river, as well as in a long and tedious navigation upwards of thirty leagues to New Orleans, would render a harbour to the westward of the Balize, and a water communication with the upper parts of the Mississippi of vast importance. The nature of the narrow

row

row slip of land extending upwards of 60 leagues between that river and the sea, in a westerly course, indicates very strongly the probability of a better and more easy communication from that quarter, than that by the river Ibberville through the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas. This opinion is fully confirmed by the information received from Natchiabe, an intelligent chief of the Humas tribe, who inhabit the banks of a creek known by the name of the Chetimachas fork, already mentioned, and which I am now to describe. The Chetimachas forms one of the outlets of the Mississippi about 30 leagues above New Orleans, and after running in a southerly direction about 8 leagues from the river, divides into two branches, one of which runs south-westerly and the other south-easterly, to the distance of 7 leagues, when they both empty their waters into the Mexican Gulph.

On the Chetimachas, 6 leagues from the Mississippi, is a small settlement of a tribe of Indians of the same name. To this settlement the Chetimachas is uniformly about 100 yards in width, the depth from 2 to 4 fathoms, when the water is lowest. The course southerly, without any material winding or shoal, except at its rise from the Mississippi, where there are large collections of drifted logs, which have probably occasioned the sand bank formed at the same place. This bank however extends no farther than 60 yards, and through which a passage might easily be cleared for batteaux. The upper part of this outlet is also obstructed, in several places, by heaps of drifted logs similar to those just mentioned, but as the water, at all times, runs deep under them, they could easily be cleared off. It would be as easy to prevent any further collection of logs, or sands, at the entrance of this creek, by erecting a spar, with piles or caissons, a little above it, in an oblique direction with the current of the Mississippi. That difficulty once overcome, there

there is no other that can impede navigation from the river to the above mentioned settlement of the Chetimachas village; nor, as these Indians inform, to the Gulph. The banks on both sides of the Chetimachas, are generally higher than those of the Mississippi, and so elevated in some places as never to be overflowed. The ground rises gradually from its banks about 200 yards, and then gently descends to extensive cypress swamps. The natural productions are the same as on the Mississippi, but the soil from the extraordinary size and compactness of the canes growing on it, is something superior. If measures were adopted and pursued with a view to improve that communication, there would soon be, on its banks, the most prosperous and important settlements of that colony.

Nine miles above the Chetimachas is the *concession* of Monsieur Paris, a pleasant situation and good land. Large herds of cattle are generally kept here, belonging to the inhabitants of Point Coupé.

The settlements of the Acadians are on both sides of the river, and reach from the Germans to the Iberville. These are the remainder of the families which were sent by Gen. Lawrance from Nova Scotia to the then British southern provinces; where, by their industry, they did and might have continued to live very happy, but that they could not publicly enjoy the Roman catholic religion, to which they are greatly bigotted. They took the earliest opportunity, after the peace, of transporting themselves to St. Domingo, where the climate disagreed with them so much, that they, in a few months, lost near half their numbers; the remainder, few only excepted, were, in the latter end of the year 1763, removed to New Orleans at the expence of the king of France. There are about three hundred families of this unfortunate people settled in different parts of Louisiana. They

The settlements of Acadians.

are sober and industrious ; they clothe themselves in almost every respect with the produce of their own fields, and the work of their own hands, and are very obedient and useful subjects.

River Ibber-
ville.

The river Ibberville is 99 miles from New Orleans, 204 miles from the Balize, and 270 miles from Pensacola, by the way of the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas.

In 1765 a post was established here, and the garrison, which was a detachment of the 34th regiment, withdrawn in the month of July in the same year. In December 1766, this post was re-possest, and a small stockaded fort built by a party of the 21st regiment, and was demolished and abandoned in 1768. And in the year 1778 it was again possest by part of the 16th regiment, who were made prisoners by the Spaniards in the year following.

Before the cession of Louisiana to Spain, the peltries of the British and French shores of the Illinois have been mostly carried in the British dominions, either in Canada, by the upper parts of the Mississippi through Machillimakinak, or by the way of New Orleans at the mouth of that river. Philadelphia and New-York have also received great quantities of peltries in return for their flour and the dry goods which they have sent to New Orleans, for the Indian trade, or the use of the inhabitants. Pensacola received likewise large parcels of skins and furs, which have been exported thence to London, to South-Carolina, or other parts of America. This is the reason why the importance of the Illinois or upper Mississippi has, till now, been little known. It is even certain, that it has been artfully concealed by many, who availed themselves of the ignorance of the public on that head.

This would not have been the case, had not the British government withdrawn in 1768, the garrison of fort Bute, which was constructed at Manchac, on
the

the bank of the Mississippi, opposite to another fort which the French erected in 1767, at the distance of about 400 paces from the British fort. These forts were situated near the place which, in the treaty of peace in 1762, is described as the mouth of Ibberville river to the North of New Orleans island, and the then boundary-line of the possessions of the two crowns in those parts; but the plenipotentiaries of the two powers were misinformed; for, as we have already observed, the city of New Orleans is not in an island, but on the continent. Or if the tract of land on which that city is situated, can be termed an island, that name can with propriety be applied to it during only two, or at most three months every year, when the Mississippi overflows; an accidental communication with lake Ponchartrain is then opened through the Gut of Ibberville. It may be dignified, during that short period, with the title of river, but dries up as soon as the Mississippi ceases to overflow. At any other time the walking from English to French, now Spanish Manchac, is perfectly dry.

This place, if attended to, might be of consequence to the commerce of West-Florida; for it may with reason be supposed, that the inhabitants and traders who reside at Point Coupeé, at Natchitoches, Attacappa, the Natchez, on the East side of the Mississippi above and below the Natchez, at the Illinois, and St. Vincents on the Ouabashe, would rather trade at this place than at New Orleans, if they could have as good returns for their peltry and the produce of their country; for it makes a difference of ten days in their voyage, which is no inconsiderable saving of labour, money, and time. The only difficulty which opposes itself to this necessary establishment, is the want of a navigation through the river Ibberville, so that vessels might carry on a constant intercourse betwixt this place and Pensacola without going up the Mississippi,

ssippi, which is a more tedious navigation. However, this difficulty is greatly obviated by a good road made for carriages between the navigable water of the Iberville (a distance of ten miles) and the Mississippi; and when the latter is high enough to run into the former, which it generally is during the months of May, June, and July, vessels drawing from three to four feet, or more, may then pass from one to the other.

Village of
Alibama In-
dians.

About a mile above the Iberville, on the East side of the Mississippi, there is a village of Alibama Indians, consisting of twenty-five warriors.

Point Coupé
settlement.

From the Iberville to the settlements of Point Coupé is 35 miles; they extend full 20 miles on the West side of the Mississippi, and there are some plantations back on the side of what is generally called La Fausse Riviere, through which the Mississippi passed about 70 years ago, making the shape of a crescent. The fort, which is a square figure with four bastions, built with stockades, is situated on the same side of the Mississippi, about four and a half miles above the lowest plantation. The inhabitants of Point Coupé amount to about 2000 of all ages and sexes, and 7000 slaves. They cultivate tobacco, indigo, and Indian corn; raise vast quantities of poultry, which they send to market at New Orleans, and furnish to the shipping. They square a great deal of timber and make staves, which they convey in rafts to New Orleans. Eight miles above the fort at Point Coupé, on the same side of the river, is a small village of the Affagoula Indians. They have only about a dozen warriors.

Affagoula
Indians.

Village of
Tonicas.

On the East side of the river, and opposite to the upper plantations of Point Coupé, is the village of the Tonicas, formerly a numerous nation of Indians; but their constant intercourse with the white people, and immoderate use of spirituous liquors, have reduced them to about twenty warriors.

About

About ten miles above the Tonicas village, on the same side of the river, is a village of Pascagoula Indians, of twenty warriors; and a little lower down, on the opposite side, there is a village of Biloxi Indians, containing thirty warriors.

Villages of
Pascagoula
and Biloxi
Indians.

The Chafalaya is about 30 miles above the settlement of Point Coupeé, and 3 miles below the mouth of the river Rouge. It is the uppermost mouth of the Mississippi, and after running many miles through one of the most fertile countries in the world, falls into the Bay of St. Bernard, a considerable distance westward of the mouths of the Mississippi.

Chafalaya
upper mouth
of the Missis-
sippi.

Fifty-four miles from the Mississippi down the Chafalaya, on the eastern side, is the place called the Portage, just above the mouth of a small rivulet. This Portage is 18 miles from Point Coupeé. Twelve miles below this Portage is a narrow island 24 miles long. The eastern channel is choaked up with logs, but the western affords good navigation. The river Appaloufa communicates with this channel nearly opposite the middle of the island, on the West side. There are two settlements on the Appaloufa; the first is 30 miles, and the other 12 miles further, from its mouth. In descending the Chafalaya it is 3 miles from the last mentioned island to Isle au Vauche; and to the bay de Chafalaya, which is on the eastern side of the river, it is 3 miles more. This bay is of a triangular figure, about 6 miles in length, and something better than a mile in width at its entrance. When the Chafalaya is not raised with freshes, there is seldom more than 5 feet water in this bay. Fifteen miles from it on the eastern side, is the bay of Plaquimenes. About half the distance between these bays, is a rivulet which communicates with the former bed of the Mississippi, back of Point Coupeé, during the annual floods in that river. The country between them is very low, swampy and full of ponds of water.

Near

Near the source of the Chafalaya the current is very rapid, but gradually diminishes to the mouth, where it is very gentle.

Isle au
Vauche.

We will now return to the Isle au Vauche, and proceed from thence to lake de Portage, which is 3 miles from the island. This lake is 13 miles long, and not more than one and an half broad. It communicates at the southern end, by a strait a quarter of a mile wide, with the grand lake of Chetimachas, which is 24 miles in length and 9 in width. The country bordering these lakes is low and flat, and timbered principally with cypress, some live and other kinds of oak; and on the eastern side, the land between it and the Chafalaya river, is divided and again subdivided by innumerable small streams, which occasion as many islands. Some of these streams are navigable.

At a little distance from the south-eastern shore of the lake Chetimachas, is an island where persons passing that way generally halt as a resting place. Nearly opposite this island, along the western shore, there is an opening which leads to the sea. It is about 150 yards wide, and has 16 or 17 fathoms water. From the lake along this opening it is 3 miles to the Tage river, which is on the North side. Three small rivulets fall in on the same side, in the above distance; and 3 miles below the Tage river on the western side is a large savanna known by the name of Prairu de Jacko. From this savanna it is about 33 miles to the sea.

Tage river.

In ascending the Tage river, it is 10 leagues from its mouth to an old Indian village, on the East side, called Mingo Luoac, which signifies Fire Chief. From this village to the habitation of Mons. Mafs, which is on the West side, it is 2 leagues. One and an half leagues further up, on the East side, is the village de Selieu Rouge, from whence there is a portage of half a mile to lake Chetimacha. Two leagues further up the river, and on the West side, is the habitation of Mons.

Monf. Sorrel. From whence, to the town la Nouvelle Iberie, on the fame fide, it is fix leagues. The whole of this diftance is tolerably well fettled. From this town about fix leagues wefterly acrofs the country is fituated the village de Skunnemoke or the Tuckapas, on the Vermillion river, which runs into the bay of St. Bernard. The river Tage, is in general better than 100 yards wide, with a gentle current, and a fmall ebb and flow of about 8 or 10 inches. It narrows as you afcend it, where in fome places, it is not 50 yards over. Veffels drawing from 7 to 8 feet water may go from the fea to this town without any obftructions. About 3 leagues above la Nouvelle Iberie is la Force Point, formerly fettled by French neutrals. It is now inhabited by creoles of the country, Spaniards from the Canarie iflands, and a few Englifh from the eastern fide of the Miffiffippi. Then to la Shute branch, which paffes over a fall of about 10 feet, near to where it enters into the Tage river, it is 3 leagues, and inhabited the whole diftance. From this branch to Monf. Flemming's is 2 leagues more. A quarter of a mile back from Mr. Flemming's there is lake 3 leagues in circuit. From Mr. Flemming's to the church De fata cappau, which is on the Weft fide of the Tage, it is 1 league further, all which is inhabited. From the church to what is called the bottom of the bite, is two leagues, and the whole diftance clofely fettled. From thence to the point fettlement of Acadians is one league, to the plantation of Monf. l'Deé is alfo a league, and to the point of Monf. Deé it is half a league further. From Monf. Deé's to Monf. Fuzelliere's is 5 leagues by water, but only three by land. Fuzelliere's fork, or branch, is juft below his houfe, and divides the diftricts of Attacappau and Appaloufe. And, at the diftance of about 2 leagues, this branch communicates with the Vermillion river wefterly. The river Tage ftill continues to the eaftward. At one
Church De-
fata cappau.
Diftricts of
Attacappau
and Appa-
loufe.
and

and an half leagues from the fork, or branch, is the Prairie de Monf. Man, to Monf. Man's plantation it is one and an half leagues further ; from thence upwards the river divides into little brooks, and loses itself in rich and extensive savannahs.

Inhabitants.

All the Indians in this part of the country, consisting of several small tribes, do not exceed 100 families. The white people are about 400 families, and can raise 500 militia. The number of negroes are nearly equal to the whites.

Soil and Produce.

Although this country might produce all the valuable articles raised in other parts of the globe, situated in the same latitudes, yet the inhabitants principally cultivate indigo, rice, tobacco, indian corn and some wheat ; and they raise large stocks of black cattle, horses, mules, hogs, sheep and poultry. The sheep is said to be the sweetest mutton in the world. The black cattle, when fat enough for sale, which they commonly are the year round, are driven across the country to New Orleans, where there is always a good market.

This country is principally timbered with all the different kinds of oak, but mostly with live oak of the largest and best quality, uncommonly large cypresses, black walnut, hickory, white ash, cherry, plumb, poplar trees, and grape vines ; here is found also a great variety of shrubs and medicinal roots. The lands bordering the rivers and lakes are generally well wooded, but at a small distance from them are very extensive natural meadows, or savannas, of the most luxuriant soil, composed of a black mould about one and a half feet deep, very loose and rich, occasioned, in part, by the frequent burning of the savannas ; below the black mould, it is a stiff clay of different colours. It is said this clay, after being exposed sometime to the sun, becomes so hard that it is difficult either to break or bend, but when wet by
a light

a light shower of rain, it slackens in the same manner as lime does when exposed to moisture, and becomes loose and moulders away ; after which it is found excellent for vegetation.

This country being situated between the latitudes of 30 and 31 d. North, the climate is of course very mild and temperate ; white frosts, and sometimes thin ice have been experienced here ; but snow is very uncommon. Climate.

The river Rouge, which is so called from its waters being of a reddish colour, and said to tinge those of the Mississippi at the time of the floods. Its source is in New Mexico, and it runs about 600 miles. The river Noir empties itself into this river about 30 miles from its confluence with the Mississippi, which is 187 miles from New Orleans. The famous Ferdinand Soto ended his discoveries and his life at the entrance of this river, and was buried there. Near 70 leagues up this river the French had a very considerable post, Natchitoches. It was a frontier on the Spanish settlements, being 20 miles from the fort of Adaies. The French fort was garrisoned by a captain's command. There were forty families settled here, consisting mostly of discharged soldiers and some merchants who traded with the Spaniards. A great quantity of tobacco was cultivated at this post, and sold for a good price at New Orleans, being held in great esteem. They sent also some peltry, which they received in trade from the neighbouring Indians. River Rouge.

From the river Rouge to fort Rosalie it is fifty-six and a quarter miles. This fort is situated in the country known by the name of the Natchez, in 31 d. 40 m. North latitude, about 243 computed miles from New Orleans, and 348 from the Balize, following the course of the river. The soil, at this place, is superior to any of the lands on the borders of the river Mississippi, for the production of many articles. Fort Rosalie.
Soil at the Natchez.

Its situation being higher, affords a greater variety of soil, and is in a more favourable climate for the growth of wheat, rye, barley, oats, &c. than the country lower down, and nearer to the sea. The soil also produces, in equal abundance, Indian corn, rice, hemp, flax, indigo, cotton, pot-herbs, pulse of every kind, and pasturage; and the tobacco made here is esteemed preferable to any cultivated in other parts of America. Hops grow wild; all kinds of European fruits arrive to great perfection, and no part of the known world is more favourable for the raising of every kind of stock. The climate is healthy and temperate; the country delightful and well watered; and the prospect is beautiful and extensive, variegated by many inequalities and fine meadows, separated by innumerable copses, the trees of which are of different kinds, but mostly of walnut and oak. The rising grounds, which are clothed with grass and other herbs of the finest verdure, are properly disposed for the culture of vines; the mulberry trees are very numerous, and the winters sufficiently moderate for the breed of silk worms. Clay of different colours, fit for glass works and pottery, is found here in great abundance; and also a variety of stately timber fit for house and ship building, &c. The elevated, open, and airy situation of this country renders it less liable to fevers and agues (the only disorders ever known in its neighbourhood) than some other parts bordering on the Mississippi, where the want of sufficient descent to convey the waters off occasions numbers of stagnant ponds, whose exhalations infect the air.

This country was once famous for its inhabitants, who from their great numbers, and the state of society they lived in, were considered as the most civilized Indians on the continent of America. They lived some years in great friendship with the French, whom they permitted to settle on their lands, and to whom they

they rendered every service in their power. Their hospitality, it seems, was repaid in such a manner, that they determined to get rid of their guests; for on the eve of St. Andrew 1729, they surprised the fort, and put the whole garrison to death. At the same time they made a massacre of the inhabitants, in which upwards of 500 were killed; some of the women and children they made prisoners; and very few of either sex escaped. The whole colony armed to revenge their slaughtered countrymen, and they had several skirmishes with the Natchez, in which the success was various. In 1730, Monsieur De Perrier de Salvert, brother to the governor, arrived from France, with the rank of lieutenant-general in Louisiana, and 500 regular troops, who joined the troops and militia of the colony. This army, amounting to 1500 men, went, under the command of the two brothers, to attack the nation of the Natchez; who, with their chiefs, determined to defend themselves in a fort they had built near a lake which communicates with the Bayouk Dargent, lying West of the Natchez, and North of the river Rouge. They invested this fort, and the Indians made a very resolute and vigorous sally on them, but were repulsed, after a considerable loss on both sides. The French having brought two or three mortars, threw some shells into the fort, which making a havoc amongst their women and children, so terrified the Indians, unused to this sort of war, that they surrendered at discretion, and were conducted to New Orleans; except a few who had escaped to the Chickasaws, with their hunters who were providing provisions for their garrison. Nothing now remains of this nation but their name, by which their country continues to be called. The district of the Natchez, as well as all along the eastern bank of the Mississippi to the river Ibberville, was settling very fast by daily emigrations from the northern states, but the capture of the British

Massacre of
the French in
1729.

Destruction of
Natchez In-
dians in 1730.

fish troops on the Mississippi, 1779, put an entire stop to it.

Petit Goufre. From fort Rosalie to the Petit Goufre is thirty-one and a half miles. There is a firm rock on the East side of the Mississippi for near a mile, which seems to be of the nature of limestone. The land near the river is much broken and very high, with a good soil, and several plantations on it.

Bayouk Pierre. From the Petit Goufre to Bayouk Pierre, or Stoney River, is four miles and a quarter. From the mouth to what is called the fork of this river, is computed to be 21 miles. In this distance there are several quarries of stone, and the land has a clay soil with gravel on the surface of the ground. On the North side of this river the land, in general, is low and rich; that on the South side is much higher, but broken into hills and vales; but here the low lands are not often overflowed: both sides are shaded with a variety of useful timber. At the fork the river parts almost at right angles, and the lands between, and on each side of them, are said to be clay and marl soil, not so uneven as the lands on this river lower down.

Loufa Chitto. From the Bayouk Pierre to Loufa Chitto, or the Big Black, at the Grand Goufre, is 10 miles. The Big Black (or Loufa Chitto) is, at the mouth, about 30 yards wide, but within, from 30 to 50 yards, and is said to be navigable for canoes 30 or 40 leagues. About a mile and a half up this river, the high lands are close on the right and are much broken. A mile and a half further, the high lands appear again on the right, where there are several springs of water, but none as yet has been discovered on the left. At about eight miles further, the high lands are near the river, on the left, and appear to be the same range that comes from the Yazou cliffs, which are about twelve miles up the Yazou river. At six miles further the high lands are near the river on both sides,
and

and continue for two or three miles, but broken and full of springs of water. This land on the left was chosen by General Putnam, Captain Enos, Mr. Lyman and other New England adventurers, as a proper place for a town; and, by order of the governor and council of West Florida in 1773, it was reserved for the capital. The country round is very fit for settlements. For four or five miles above this place, on both sides of the river, the land is rich, and not so much drowned, nor so uneven, as some parts lower down. About six miles and a half further, there is a rapid water, stones and gravel bottom 160 yards in length; and in one place a firm rock almost across the river, and as much of it bare, when the water is at a moderate height, as confines the stream to nearly 20 feet; and the channel is about 4 feet deep.

From the Big Black to the Yazou cliffs is 39 miles and three quarters. From this cliff the high lands ly North eastward and South south eastward, bearing off from the river, full of cane and rich soil, even on the very highest ridges. Just at the South end of the cliffs, the bank is low, where the water of the Mississippi, when high, flows back and runs between the bank and high land, which ranges nearly northerly and south south easterly to the Loufa Chitto, occasioning much wet ground, cypress swamp and stagnant ponds. Yazou cliffs.

From the Cliffs, or Aux Cotes, is seven miles and a half to the river Yazou. The mouth of this river is upwards of 100 yards in width, and was found by Mr. Gauld to be in latitude 32 d. 37 m. and by Mr. Purcel in 32 d. 28 m. North. The water of the Mississippi, when the river is high, runs up the Yazou several miles, and empties itself again by a number of channels, which direct their course across the country, and fall in above the Walnut hills. The Yazou runs from the north-east and glides through a healthy fertile Yazou river.

tile and pleasant country, greatly resembling that about the Natchez, particularly, in the luxuriance and diversity of its soil, variety of timber, temperature of climate and delightful situation. It is remarkably well watered by springs and brooks; many of the latter afford convenient seats for mills. Further up this river the canes are less frequent and smaller in size, and at the distance of 20 miles there are scarcely any. Here the country is clear of underwood and well watered, and the soil very rich, which continues to the Chactaw and Chickasaw towns. The former is situated on the eastern branch of the Yazou, an hundred miles from the mouth of that river, and consists nearly of 140 warriors: the towns of the latter are about 15 miles West of the north-west branch 150 miles from the Mississippi. They can raise upwards of 500 warriors. The above branches unite 50 miles from the Mississippi, following the course of the river; the navigation to their junction, commonly called the fork, is practicable with very large boats in the spring season, and with smaller ones a considerable way further, with the interruption of but one fall, where they are obliged to make a short portage, 20 miles up the north-west branch, and 70 miles from the Mississippi. The country in which the Chactaw and Chickasaw towns are situated, is said to be as healthy as any part of this continent, the natives scarcely ever being sick. Such of them as frequent the Mississippi, leave its banks as the summer approaches, lest they might partake of the fevers that sometimes visit the low swampy lands bordering upon that river. Wheat, it is said, yields better at the Yazou than at the Natchez, owing probably to its more northern situation. One very considerable advantage will attend the settlers on the river Yazou, which those at the Natchez will be deprived of, without going to a great expence; I mean the building with stone, there being great plenty

ty near the Yazou, but none has yet been discovered nearer to the Natchez than the Petit Goufre, or little Whirlpool, a distance of 31 miles and a half. Between this place and the Balize there is not a stone to be seen any where near the river. Though the quantity of good land on the Mississippi and its branches, from the bay of Mexico to the river Ohio, a distance of nearly one thousand miles, is vastly great, and the conveniences attending it; so likewise we may esteem that in the neighbourhood of the Natchez, and of the river Yazou the flower of it all.

About a mile and a half up the Yazou river, on the North side, there is a large creek, which communicates with the Mississippi above the river St. Francis, about 100 leagues higher up, by the course of the river. It passes through several lakes by the way. At the distance of twelve miles from the mouth of the river Yazou, on the South side, are the Yazou hills. There is a cliff of solid rock at the landing place, on which are a variety of broken pieces of sea shells, and some entire. Four miles further up is the place called the Ball Ground, near which a church, fort St. Peter, and a French settlement formerly stood. They were destroyed by the Yazou Indians in 1729. That nation is now entirely extinct.

Destruction
of the French
in 1729.

From the Yazou to the river Arkansaw is 158 and a quarter miles. It is so called from a nation of Indians of the same name. Its source is nearly in the latitude of Santa Fé in New Mexico, and it is said to be navigable for batteaux 750 miles. It runs through an immensely rich and fertile country. About ten or twelve miles up this river from the Mississippi there was formerly a fort, garrisoned generally by a company of Spanish soldiers, for the purpose of defending the trade carried on between New Orleans and the several villages of St. Genevieve, &c. and particularly for defending the commerce with the Arkansaw

River Arkansaw.

kanfaw Indians, consisting of about 280 warriors, who are as much attached to the French interest, as the Chickasaws are to that of the English. No settlements were made here, except one or two for the immediate accommodation of the garrison. The inundation of the Mississippi, about three years ago, occasioned the evacuation of the above post, and the establishment of another on the northern bank of the river 36 miles higher up. This post, consisting of a subaltern's command, six pieces of cannon and eight swivels, was attacked about eighteen months since by a party of Chickasaws, who killed ten soldiers of the garrison, and soon after concluded a peace with the Spaniards. There is a hamlet close to the fort, inhabited only by merchants and traders. The Arkansaw river discharges itself into the Mississippi by two channels, about 15 miles from each other; the uppermost is called Riviere Blanche, from its receiving a river of that name, reported to be navigable 600 miles, and the soil through which it runs equal in quality to any on the Mississippi.

River St.
Francis.

From the Arkansaw river to the river St. Francis, which is on the West side of the Mississippi, is 108 miles. This is a small river, and is remarkable for nothing but the general rendezvous of the hunters from New Orleans, who winter there, and collect salt meat, fuet, and bears oil, for the supply of that city. Formerly the French had a post at the entrance of this river, for a magazine of stores and provisions during their wars with the Chickasaws, by whom their Illinois convoys were constantly attacked and frequently destroyed.

River Margot.

From the river St. Francis to the river and heights of Margot, which are on the East side of the Mississippi, is 70 and a half miles. This river is said to be navigable for batteaux a number of miles. It appears to be a pretty little river. The high ground below
its

its junction with the Mississippi affords a commanding, airy, pleasant and extensive situation for settlements; the soil is remarkably fertile. On this ground just below the mouth of the river, the French built a fort, called Assumption Fort, when at war with the Chickasaws, in the year 1736, but it was demolished in the year following, when a peace with those Indians was concluded.

From the river Margot to the Chickasaw river, Chickasaw River. which is on the East side of the Mississippi, is 104 and a half miles. The lands here are of an excellent quality, and covered with a variety of useful timber, canes, &c. This river may be ascended during high floods upwards of 30 miles with boats of several tons burthen.

From the Chickasaw river to Mine au fer, or the Mine au fer. Iron Mines, on the East side of the Mississippi, is 67 and a quarter miles. Here the land is nearly similar in quality to that bordering the Chickasaw river, interspersed with gradual risings or small eminences. There is a post at this place, near the South boundary of Virginia.

From Mine au fer to the Ohio river, which is the Ohio River. largest eastern branch of the Mississippi, is 15 miles. This river, and its principal branches, as also the settlements in the Illinois country, are delineated in a map, and very particularly described in a pamphlet which I published in London, the 1st of January 1778, and to them the reader is referred.

Having briefly touched upon all the settlements on, and principal branches of the Mississippi, from the sea to the river Ohio; I shall now just mention the bounds of West-Florida.

The province of West-Florida is situated on the Bounds of West-Florida. North side of the Gulph of Mexico, and extends from the river Appalachicola, which is the boundary between it and East-Florida, to the Regolets at the entrance

trance into lake Ponchartrain, thence through the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas, and along the river Iberville to the Mississippi, thence along the Mississippi to the northernmost part of the 31st deg. of North latitude, thence by a line drawn due East along the South boundary of the state of Georgia to the river Appalachicola, including all the islands within six leagues of the coast, between the Appalachicola and lake Ponchartrain.

General observations relating to the coast of Florida.

I now proceed to make some general observations, which may be of service in making the land when you arrive on the coast of Florida. This is distinguishable many different ways; as by the latitudes, the trenching and direction of the shore, and the soundings and quality of the bottom, to each of which particular attention must be paid.

From cape Blaise in 29 d 41 m North latitude, to the Balize at the mouth of the Mississippi, the coast forms a curve, inclining to the northward, for 28 leagues, as far as the East end of Rose island in 30 d 28 m North; from thence the land gradually declines to the southward, as far as Mobile Point in 30 d 17 m North about 30 leagues. Dauphin island, and the other islands, including Ship island, stretch nearly West for the space of 20 leagues, and from the North end of the Chandeleurs, which lies near 5 leagues to the South-east of Ship island, the coast runs chiefly to the southward till you arrive at the entrance of the river Mississippi.

It is likewise to be observed, that in several places there is double land to be seen over the different bays and lagoons: as at St. Andrew's bay; which may be known by a high white sand hill, near the point of a peninsula, on the left hand going in: at St. Rose's bay; where there is a remarkable red bluff on the East side of the entrance just opposite to the East end of Rose island; over the greatest part of which island double land may likewise be seen from
the

the mast head, and at the bay of Pensacola, the entrance of which is remarkable on account of the red cliff opposite to the West end of Rose island. There is a large lagoon, a little more than a league to the westward of this cliff, about 3 leagues in length, leaving a narrow peninsula, over which the double land may easily be seen, with a high red bank on the North side about half way; this seems to distinguish it from any other part of the coast. There is a double land at the entrance of the river Perdido; but it is not easily observed at any considerable distance. The same may also be seen over some parts of Dauphin island, and those to the westward of it, viz. Massacre, Horn and Ship islands, as well as between them; but it appears at so great a distance, that it cannot be mistaken for any part of the coast to the eastward of Mobile Point.

The Chandeleurs, which were 5 in number, when I visited them in the year 1772, extend nearly S by W 9 or 10 leagues. The Isle aux Grand Gozier lies about 10 or 11 miles to the southward of them, with breakers all the way between. The Isle au Briton, or rather a cluster of islands of that name, lie about 4 miles to the westward of the Grand Goziers, or Great Pelican island: both these and the Chandeleur islands are very low, with some bushes: and behind them, at a considerable distance, there is a chain of low marshy islands and lagoons, bordering the peninsula of Orleans.

This is a dangerous part of the coast to a stranger, both on account of the lowness of the land, which cannot be seen at any distance, as there are no trees, and likewise on account of the above mentioned shoal between the southernmost of the Chandeleurs, and the Grand Goziers, from latitude 29 d 42 m North, to 29 d 32 m North.

There is however very good shelter for ships, within

The Chandeleur islands.

A dangerous part of the coast.

Nassau Road. in the North end of the Chandeleurs, in Nassau road, which lies 5 leagues to the southward of Ship island, and is one of the best for large vessels on the whole coast of Florida; not only as it affords good shelter from those winds that blow on shore, but as it is, by having no bar, of so easy an access from the sea. Care must however be taken, not to go within three quarters of a mile of the inside of the island, it being shoal near that distance from the shore.

Vessels may go round the North end of it from the sea, in 5 and a half and 6 fathoms, at half a mile from the shore; and afterwards must keep in 4 and a half and 5 fathoms, till the North point bears N N E about 2 miles; when they may come to an anchor in 4 fathoms good holding ground, sheltered from easterly and southerly winds.

It would be necessary for vessels to be well acquainted with this road, as easterly winds are frequent on the coast of Florida. There is fresh water to be got any where on the Chandeleurs by digging; besides which it might be met with in a kind of well, at an old hut near the North end. No wood is to be found here but drift wood, of which there is great plenty along shore.

Nassau Road was first discovered by Dr. Daniel Cox of New Jersey, about the time of King William the 3d, who gave it the name of Nassau, in honour of that prince. Doctor Cox had likewise given the name of the Myrtle islands to those which are still so denominated, before the French called them the Chandeleurs; and they were so named by both, from the candles made of the myrtle wax with which these islands abound.

River Ibberville.

From the West side of the * isthmus of the peninsula of Orleans to the junction of the Ibberville with lake

* The river Ibberville was very little known by the English at the treaty of peace in 1762; for notwithstanding the crown has expended some

lake Maurepas, it is 60 computed miles, following the course of the river, which for the first 10 miles is not navigable above four months in the year; but there is at all times from two to six feet for three miles further, and between two and four fathoms is the depth the remaining part of the way to the lake.

The river Amit falls into the Ibberville on the North side, about 21 miles from the junction of the Ibberville with the Mississippi. The water of the Amit is clear, with a gravelly bottom. It may be ascended with vessels drawing five or six feet water, about half a dozen miles, and with batteaux 100 miles further. Seventeen miles from the Ibberville this river forks; the western branch, called the Comit, has its source near the country of the Natchez; and the eastern branch, which is the most considerable, rises near the Pearl river: both these branches run through a very fertile country, in some parts hilly, which, as well as the low lands, is covered with canes, oaks, ash, mulberry, hickory, poplar, cedar and cypress. The banks in general are high, yet in some parts they are subject to be overflowed. There were a number of inhabitants settled on the Amit and Comit, who had slaves, and who raised indigo, cotton, rice, hemp, tobacco, and Indian corn, in great abundance, and all excellent in their kind. They had plenty of horses, cows, hogs, poultry, &c. and the river abounds with a variety of fish.

From the Amit to lake Maurepas is 39 miles, following the Ibberville. The quality of the land and timber

some thousands of pounds in clearing the Ibberville, it is not now navigable from the Mississippi towards lake Maurepas, ever for a canoe; and when I viewed it on the 10th of October 1766, the surface of the water of the Mississippi was then 24 feet below the bed or bottom of the Ibberville. The Mississippi is the source of the Ibberville, when raised high enough to run into it, and occasions what is erroneously called the island of Orleans to be then an island in fact, but at any other time it is not environed with water; therefore, with what degree of propriety can the Ibberville be termed a river, or the town of New Orleans said to be situated on an island?

timber on this river is similar to that on the *Amit*, with this difference, its banks in general are lower and the country less hilly, and there is a greater proportion of rice land, and also cypress and live oak; the latter is of an extraordinary quality for ship building. There were several inhabitants on this river who raised indigo, Indian corn, rice, &c. and were in a very thriving way.

Lake Maurepas.

Lake Maurepas is about 10 miles in length and 7 in width, with 10 or 12 feet water in it. The country round it is low, and covered with cypress, live oak, myrtle, &c. Two creeks fall into this lake; one from the North side, called *Nattabanie*, the other from the peninsula of Orleans.

Passage between Lake Ponchartrain and Maurepas.

From the Ibberville across the lake, it is 7 miles to the passage leading to Ponchartrain. The length of this passage is 7 miles, and only 300 yards in width, which is divided into two branches by an island that extends from Maurepas to about the distance of a mile from Ponchartrain. The South channel is the deepest and shortest.

Lake Ponchartrain.

Lake Ponchartrain. The greatest length of this lake is about 40 miles, breadth 24 miles, and depth 18 feet. The following creeks fall in on the North side, *Tangipaho* and *Le Comble*, 4 feet deep; *Chefuncta*, 7; and *Bonfouca*, 6; and from the peninsula of Orleans, *Tigahoc*, at the mouth of which was a small post. The Bayouk of St. John, which also communicates on the same side, has been already mentioned. The French inhabitants, who formerly resided on the North side of this lake, chiefly employed themselves in making pitch, tar, and turpentine, and raising stock, for which the country is very favourable.

The distance from lake Ponchartrain through the *Regolets* is 10 miles, and between 3 and 400 yards broad, and lined with marshes on each side.

On

On the South side of the Regolets, and near to the entrance from the sea, there is a large passage into the lake Borgne, or Blind lake, and, by some creeks that fall into it, small craft may go as far as the plantations on the Mississippi; and there is a passage between the lakes Borgne and Ponchartrain: but either by this, or that of the Rigolets, six, and sometimes seven feet, is the deepest water through.

Passage into
Lake Borgne.

Passage thro'
the Regolets.

Near the entrance at the East end of the Regolets, and on the North side, are the principal mouths of Pearl river, which rises in the Chaftaw nation, and is navigable upwards of 150 miles. There is 7 feet going into it, and deep water afterwards. In the year 1769, there were some settlements on this river, where they raised tobacco, indigo, cotton, rice, Indian corn, and all sorts of vegetables. The land produces a variety of timber fit for pipe and hoghead staves, masts, yards, and all kinds of plank for ship building.

Pearl River.

Produce of
the country on
the banks of
Pearl River.

From the Regolets to the bay of St. Louis is about 18 miles. This is a small beautiful compact bay with about 7 feet water in it: the land near it is of a light soil, and good for pasture. There were several settlers formerly on it, but in the year 1767, the Chaftaw Indians killed their cattle and obliged them to remove.

St. Louis Bay.

From this bay to the bay of Biloxi, is 26 miles. Just opposite to Ship island, on the main land, is situated old Biloxi, in a small bay of the same name, behind L'Isle au Chevereuil, or Buck or Deer island. This is the place where the French made their first establishment in Louisiana: but they did not continue there long, finding it in every respect an improper situation for the capital. There are still a few inhabitants at Biloxi, some of whom are the offspring of the original settlers. Their chief employment is raising of cattle and stock, and making pitch and tar: but the natives are very troublesome to them.

Bay of Biloxi.

Old Biloxi.

From

Pascagoula River.

From the Biloxi to the Pascagouli river is about 13 miles. This river empties itself by several mouths; between the easternmost and westernmost of which, there is a space of between 3 and 4 miles, that is nearly one continued bed of oyster shells, with very shoal water. The only channel is at the westernmost entrance, where there are 4 feet. This large river about 20 miles above its entrance is divided into two branches, which continue their course to the sea, generally about 5 or 6 miles asunder. The intermediate space, for several miles above its mouth, is nothing but marshes intersected by lagoons. After getting into either of the branches, there is from 3 to 6 fathoms, and the river is said to be navigable for more than 150 miles.

Soil on the River.

The soil on this river, like all other rivers on the coast of West Florida, grows better the higher up you go; but even near the entrance it is far from being bad. There are some good plantations on the East side, but here, as well as all the way to the westward, the inhabitants are much molested by the natives, especially by the Chactaws who kill their cattle, &c.

Pas au Heron.

From the Pascagoula river to the Pas au Heron at the bay of Mobile is 18 miles. This pas has 4 feet water; and from thence to the point, which is on the East side of the bay of Mobile, in latitude 30 d 17 m North, is nearly 6 miles.

Before describing this bay, I shall take notice of the following islands situated along the coast, between the bay of St. Louis and the point of Mobile.

Cat Island, and the adjacent parts.

Cat island lies about 8 miles eastward of the bay of St. Louis, and 7 miles from the coast: it is 6 miles in length, very narrow, and of an irregular shape, with a large shoal from the East end of it, extending within two miles of Ship island. The soil is poor, producing nothing but pine, some live oak and grass, and

and its shore is almost every where covered, or bordered with an immensity of shells.

The marshy islands near the peninsula of Orleans, are distant about 3 miles South of Cat island; and between them there is a channel of 9 feet, which continues to the Regolets through a number of shoals.

Ship island is situated between 7 and 8 miles East Ship island. of Cat island, and about 10 miles South of the bay of Biloxi. This island is 9 miles in length and 2 miles in width where broadest. It produces pine trees and grafs, and there is a well of tolerable water on it. The western part of this island is very narrow, and for better than three miles there is not a tree on it. A shoal runs out due South, about a mile from the West end. The channel is better than a mile wide with from 4 to 5 and 6 fathoms, but the bar has only 21 feet. In going over it from the sea the course to be steered is due North, keeping the above shoal near half a mile to the eastward, and after fairly passing the end of the island, from the inner part of which lies a shoal, the course proceeds N E until the broadest part of the point of the island bears due South about one mile and a half, where there is between 4 and 5 fathoms. This is a good place to anchor in the summer time; but is very much exposed in winter, when the northerly winds prevail; and is a very convenient place for shipping the produce of the rivers Pearl, Ibberville and Amit, and the lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain.

Directions for
anchoring.

From Ship island to Horn island is between 5 and 6 miles, with a small key called Dog island between, about two thirds of the way, and with a shoal all the way from the former to about a quarter of a mile of the latter, where there is a channel of 5 fathoms. The above shoal extends South of the channel nearly 2 miles, where there is a bar of 15 feet; in crossing of which it behoves the mariner to keep about half a

Horn island.

mile from the shore, and to steer for the end of the island, and on approaching it to give it a birth of about a cables length, to avoid a shoal on the left; after passing of which he ought to keep a little to the westward, on account of a shoal that runs from the inside of the island, then to haul round to the eastward, where there is better than 15 feet water, a little more than a mile from the island.

Its description. Horn island is nearly 17 miles in length, and about half a mile in width. There are more trees on the middle of the island than in any other part of it; and for about 3 miles from the East end there are no trees at all, but there are a number of sandy hillocks.

Round island. Round island lies about 5 miles North from opposite the middle of Horn island, and is well timbered.

Island of Massacre. The island of Massacre is upwards of 2 miles to the eastward of Horn island, from which a shoal extends better than a mile and a half between them, leaving a channel of about 11 feet round the West end of Massacre island; but within the island there is between 3 and 4 fathoms.

Massacre is nearly 9 miles long and very narrow, it is remarkable for a grove of trees in the middle, which is the more particular as there is not a tree any where else on the island.

The distance between Massacre island and the main, is about 10 miles, from 2 to 3 fathoms all the way across; except one large shoal called la Grand Bature; which stretches out from the main land about a league, with 2 or 3 feet water on it, and in some places not so much. Behind it, there is a large bay called L'ance de la Grand Bature, 8 miles East of Pascagoula bluff.

The land here and to the eastward, as far as the bay of Mobile, is swampy towards the sea, with a clay bottom for 2 or 3 miles back; but afterwards it is covered chiefly with pines, live oak and hickory, and the soil is sandy or gravelly for several miles, before
it

it becomes truly fit for culture; notwithstanding which it is good for pasture.

From Massacre to Dauphin island is 5 miles, with a shoal all the way between them. These are supposed formerly to have been but one, which went by the general name of Massacre, so called by Mons. d'Ibberville, from a large heap of human bones found thereon at his first landing; but it was afterwards called Dauphin island, in honor of the Dauphin of France, and to take off the disagreeable idea excited by the other name.

Dauphin island is about 10 miles long, and in the broadest part not quite 2 miles. The West end for between 3 and 4 miles, is a narrow slip of land with some dead trees; the rest is covered with thick pines, which come close to the waters edge on the East side, forming a large bluff. There is the remains of an old French post on the South side of the island; about two miles from that bluff are a few old houses on the North side opposite to it, near which are large hillocks of oyster shells, now covered with dwarf cedar and live oak. There are many such vestiges of the antient inhabitants in several bays and other places on the coast, and as these are always found on high banks, the usual places where the natives encamp, it cannot well be supposed they were left there by the sea, though many are of that opinion.

Gillori island is divided from Dauphin island on the North side by a narrow channel, through which a boat may pass with some difficulty; and between Gillori and the main land, on the West side of Mobile bay, there is a chain of small islands, and oyster shells, through which there is a passage of four feet, called *Passé au Heron*, where small craft may go from Mobile bay to the westward within the islands. There is likewise a passage for small boats and canoes from the West side of the bay of Mobile, through what the French call *Riviere aux Poules*, which falls in opposite

posite to the West end of Dauphin island, and cuts off a considerable space of ground.

Great Pelican
Island.

Just opposite the old fort, on the South side of Dauphin island, distant one mile, lies Great Pelican island, which is about a mile in length, and very narrow. It stretches to the S E in form of a half moon, the concave side being towards the East end of Dauphin island. There are neither trees nor bushes on it, but here and there large tufts of grass like small reeds, on the sandy parts near the sea side.

Hawk's Bay.

Hawk's bay is between Pelican and Dauphin islands. There is a broad channel of 11 and 12 feet, afterwards safe anchorage in four fathoms good holding ground, and well sheltered from most winds; on which account it is very convenient for small vessels.

Little Pelican
Island.

There is a small sand key called Little Pelican island, about a league S E from Great Pelican island, forming a curve to the eastward, and there it meets a large shoal extending from Mobile Point.

Directions for
entering Mo-
bille Bay.

The deepest water on the bar of Mobile, or rather of Mobile bay, (for there is another bar at the entrance of the river near the town) is only 15 or 16 feet. The mark for going over it in the deepest channel, is to bring Little Pelican island well on with the bluff on the East end of Dauphin island, bearing about N N W 3-4 W, and then to steer in for the key in that direction. The Point of Mobile bears from the bar nearly due North four miles, and the key is more than a mile and a half within it. Both the East and West reefs, as well as the bar itself, are steep towards the sea, there being from three to seven and eight fathoms immediately without; this occasions a constant swell with a heavy sea when it blows from the southward: and therefore in rough weather, it would be imprudent to go over it in a vessel that draws above 10 or 11 feet water. Within the bar it deepens gradually towards Little Pelican island, be-

tween

tween which and the East reef, the channel is not more than a quarter of a mile broad, with six or seven fathoms water. This depth continues all the way round Mobile Point, where is tolerable good anchorage in four or five fathoms, but it is at best an open roadstead, the bay being too large to afford much shelter.

From Mobile Point to the town the distance is about 11 leagues nearly due North, and the breadth of the bay in general is about three or four leagues. At the lower part of it is a deep bight that runs about six leagues to the eastward of the point, having a narrow peninsula between it and the sea. The river Bon Secour falls into the bottom of this bay or bight, and Fish river with that of La Sant on the North side of it; on which there are several habitations.

Directions for
entering Mo-
bille Bay.

On the West side of the bay of Mobile there are likewise some small rivers, but none considerable, besides La Riviere aux Poules, by which there is a small inland communication to the westward, and Dog river, which falls into the bay about nine miles below Mobile. The former has five or six feet in the entrance, and is navigable for a boat several miles back into the country. With regard to the general depth of the water in the bay, there is from two to three fathoms two-thirds of the way from Mobile Point towards the town, and the deepest water to be depended on in the upper part of the bay is only 10 or 12 feet, and in many places not so much; but there is no danger, as the bottom is soft mud. Large vessels cannot go within seven miles of the town.

La Riviere
aux Poules,
and Dog Ri-
ver.

Notwithstanding all these inconveniencies in point of navigation, Mobile having been the frontiers of the French dominions in Louisiana, always was, and now is a very considerable place. It has a small regular fort, built with brick, and a neat square of barracks for the officers and soldiers. The town is pretty

Town of Mo-
bille.

pretty regular of an oblong figure, on the West bank of the river, where it enters the bay.

There is a considerable Indian trade carried on here. Mobile, when in possession of his Britannic Majesty, sent yearly to London, skins and furs amounting from 12 to 15,000 pounds sterling: it was then the only staple commodity in this part of the province. The British garrison at Mobile surrendered to the arms of his Catholic Majesty in the year 1780.

The bay of Mobile terminates a little to the north-eastward of the town, in a number of marshes, and lagoons: which subject the people to fevers and agues in the hot season.

Mobile River. The river of Mobile is divided into two principal branches about 40 miles above the town: one of which is called the Tanfa, falls into the East part of the bay; the other empties itself close by the town, where it has a bar of 7 feet; but there is a branch a little to the eastward of this, called Spanish river, where there is a channel of 9 or 10 feet, when the water is high, but this joins Mobile river about two leagues above the town.

Alibama River. Two or three leagues above the Tanfa branch, the Alibama river falls into Mobile river, after running from the N E a course of about 130 miles; that is from Alibama fort, situated at the confluence of the Coussa, and Talpouse, both very considerable rivers; on which and their branches are the chief settlements of the upper Creek Indians.

Tombeche River. The French fort at Alibama was evacuated 1763, and has not since been garrisoned. Above the confluence of Alibama and Mobile, the latter is called the Tombeche river, from the fort of Tombeche situated on the West side of it, about 96 leagues above the town of Mobile. The source of this river, is reckoned to be about 40 leagues higher up, in the country

country of the Chickasaws. The fort of Tombecbe was taken possession of by the English, but abandoned again in 1767, by order of the commandant of Pensacola. The river is navigable for sloops and schooners about 35 leagues above the town of Mobile. The banks, where low, are partly overflowed in the rainy seasons, which adds greatly to the soil, and adapts it particularly to the cultivation of rice. The sides of the river are covered in many places with large canes, so thick that they are almost impenetrable; there is also plenty of remarkable large red and white cedar, cypress, elm, ash, hickory and various kinds of oak. Several people have settled on this river, who find the soil to answer beyond expectation.

The lands near the mouth of the Mobile river are generally low: as you proceed upwards, the land grows higher, and may with great propriety be divided into three stages. First, low rice lands on or near the banks of the river, of a most excellent quality. Secondly, what are called by the people of the country second low grounds, or level flat cane lands about 4 or 5 feet higher than the low ricelands. And, thirdly the high upland or open country. The first or low lands extend about an half or 3 quarters of a mile from the river, and may almost every where be easily drained and turned into most excellent rice fields, and are capable of being laid under water at almost all seasons of the year. They are a deep black mud or slime, which have in a succession of time been accumulated, or formed by the overflowing of the river.

The second low grounds being, in general, formed by a regular rising of about 4 or 5 feet higher than the low lands, appears to have been originally the edge of the river. This second class or kind of land is in general extremely rich and covered with large timber and thick strong canes, extending in width
upon

upon an average three quarters of a mile, and in general a perfect level. It is excellent for all kinds of grain, and well calculated for the culture of indigo, hemp, flax or tobacco.

At the extremity of these second grounds, you come to what is called the high or upland, which is covered with pine, oak and hickory, and other kinds of large timber. The soil is of a good quality, but much inferior to the second or low land. It answers well for raising Indian corn, potatoes, and every thing else that delights in a dry light soil. Further out in the country again, on the West side of this river, you come to a pine barren, with extensive reed-swamps and natural meadows or savannahs which afford excellent ranges of innumerable herds of cattle.

On the East of the river Mobile, towards the river Alabama, is one entire extended rich cane country, not inferior perhaps to any in America.

Whenever portages are made between the Mobile and Cherokee river, or their branches, which are probably but a few miles apart, the Mobile will be the first river for commerce, (the Mississippi excepted) in this part of the world, as it affords the shortest and most direct communication to the sea.

Sea coast between Mobile and Pensacola.

The land to the eastward of Mobile Point, for about three leagues on the peninsula, is remarkable for alternate spaces of thick and thin trees. The Point is covered with a grove of thick but not very tall ones. There is a small lagoon about four leagues to the eastward of the Point, with hardly water at the entrance for a boat, the trees about which are very tall and thick. There are several hillocks to the eastward along shore, all the way from thence to the river Perdido, except at one place, about two-thirds of the way; where double lands may be seen over a lagoon which stretches to the westward of that river.

River and bay of Perdido.

The river Perdido empties itself into the sea about
10 leagues

to leagues to the eastward of Mobile Point, and four leagues to the westward of the bar of Pensacola. The entrance is narrow, with a bar of six feet ; but afterwards it widens considerably, stretching first to the N E upwards of a league, where it goes within a mile of the head of the great lagoon West of the entrance of Pensacola harbour. From this the Perdido turns to the westward for three or four miles, where it forms a large bay. This river was formerly the boundary between Florida and Louisiana, dividing the French and Spanish dominions.

There is nothing remarkable between the river Perdido and the bar of Pensacola, except the grand lagoon, which reaches near to the Perdido, with some straggling trees on the peninsula, and the high red bank on the North side of it before mentioned. The soundings between the bars of Mobile and Pensacola are pretty regular, except near the bars, where there is deep water along shore, as they stretch out. It is necessary in nearing them, to keep a good offing till their respective marks are on for going over in the deepest channel. Immediately without them there is very deep water, from 7 to 12 and 13 fathoms, oozy bottom, and good holding ground. At the same distance from the shore between them, there is only six or eight fathoms ; the bottom in general is fine white sand with black specks and broken shells : in some places a coarser bottom, and in others oozy sand.

The West end of the Island of St. Rosa stretches athwart the mouth of the harbour, and defends it from the sea. It would be difficult to ascertain the entrance, were it not for a remarkable red cliff which not only distinguishes the place, but is a mark for going over the bar in the deepest water.

The bar of Pensacola is of a semicircular form, with the convex side to the sea, and lies at a consider-

Coast to Pensacola Bay.

Pensacola Harbour.

able distance from the land, occasioned, no doubt, by the conflict between the sea and the bay. The bar runs in a curve from the West breakers all the way to the eastward of the fort, or Signal House on Rose island, the outer end of it extending about a mile without the breakers ; it is a flat, hard sand, but the bottom on both sides is soft, oozy ground. After entering on the bar in the deepest channel, the old fort on Rose island bears N E 1-4 N two and a half miles ; the middle or highest red cliff, N 1-2 W three and a half miles. In coming from the eastward or westward it is best to keep in six or seven fathoms, till the West declivity of the highest part of the red cliff bears about N 1-2 W, as above ; and then to continue that direction. The water shoals gradually from four to three and three-fourths fathoms ; on the shoalest part it is 21 feet, then it regularly deepens and the bottom grows softer.

The latitude of the bar of Pensacola is 30 d 22 m North, and longitude 87 d 40 m West from London, the variation of the compass near 5 d East.

Directions for
passing thro'
the Bay.

When over the bar in five or six fathoms, it is necessary to incline a little towards the western reef, which has deep water close to it, in order to avoid the 10 feet bank that there extends about half a mile S W from the point of Rose island. As the line of direction for the deepest water over the bar leads just over the West point of this bank, therefore it is proper to keep within one and a half or two cables length of the breakers (on the North end of which there are two dry sandy keys) till the West point of Rose island is open with the straggling trees to the southward of Deer Point, at the entrance of St. Rosa channel, when one must haul up to the eastward between them clear of the 10 feet bank. There is a narrow channel of 13 feet between this bank and the point of Rose island. There is also a shoal stretching in a sweep

sweep from the red cliff towards the above mentioned sandy key, therefore care must be taken not to shut in Tartar Point with Deer Point; but as the soundings are regular, there is no fear, unless there be little wind, with the tide of ebb, which sets directly on this shoal, and in that case it is necessary to anchor in time.

Within Tartar Point the bay is about five or six miles broad, stretching to the North-east towards the town; which is situated on the main land, about eight miles from Rose island. From thence the bay turns more to the eastward, and is divided into two large branches or arms; one of which continues to the eastward about 18 miles from Pensacola, and the other to the northward nearly the same distance, from three to five miles broad,

Between Tartar Point and Pensacola there are two large lagoons, the southermost of which runs behind the red cliff.

All the West side of the bay, which forms a sweep towards the town, is shoal for upwards of half a mile off shore, but the soundings are regular to it. There is no danger in the bay between Pensacola and Rose island, except a shoal that runs from Deer Point, which ought to be attended to in working up or down the harbour. It is the more dangerous, as there is no warning given by the soundings; for from six fathoms, in a few casts of the lead, you have but as many feet. It runs more than half a mile to the westward from the point. The governor's house in the fort bears from the extremity of it N 1-2 E three and a half miles, and English Point N N E 1-4 E five miles. The best anchorage for large vessels is just a-breast of the town, in four fathoms, about one-third of a mile off shore; taking care not to bring the governor's house more to the westward than N W 1-4 W, on account of a shoal that runs off from
Indian

Indian Point at the East end of the town. As the tides in that offing run nearly East and West, ships should be moored accordingly.

Discovery
of Pensacola.

The bay of Pensacola, was first discovered by Pamphilio de Narvaez in 1525*. After him, several other Spanish adventurers visited it, who gave it different names; as Porta da Anchuse, Bahia de St. Maria, &c. But Pensacola was the proper name of it among the Indians, which it will henceforth probably retain. The first establishment the Spaniards made here was in 1696; when Don Andrea de Arivola was appointed governor of this province, which then comprehended a very large tract of land, on the gulph of Mexico. He built a small stockado, which he called fort St. Charles, with a church, &c. just by the red cliff at the entrance of the harbour.

This place was taken in the year 1719, by the French from Mobile. Pensacola fell at that time an easy prey, having only about 150 men to defend it. Shortly afterwards it was retaken by the Spaniards, who were again dispossessed by the French in the same year.

The second time the French made themselves masters of it, they kept possession till the year 1722, when it was restored to the crown of Spain by treaty. The Spaniards in the interim removed to St. Joseph's bay. About the year 1726, they built a small town on the West side of Rose island, near the present fort, or signal house, which was originally constructed by them, but greatly improved by General Haldimand. The settlement remained there till about the year 1754; but being then partly overflowed in a gale of wind, the town was removed to the place where it now stands. After this country was ceded to the English by the peace of 1762, many places were pointed out as conveniently

* But the Florida coast was previously discovered by Sebastian Cabot in 1497, and by John Ponce de Leon in 1512.

veniently situated for the purpose of building a town; but on due examination, the present situation was generally preferred, and the present town regularly laid out in the beginning of the year 1765.

The town of Pensacola is of an oblong form, and lies almost parallel to the beach. It is about a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth, but contracts at both ends. At the West end is a fine rivulet, from which vessels are supplied with water. The present fort was built by the writer of this narrative in 1775, with cedar pickets, with 4 block houses at proper distances, which defend or flank the works. It takes up a large space of ground just in the middle of the town, which it divides in a manner into two separate towns, and can be of no great service towards the defence of the place, in case an attack be made on it, either by the natives or a civilized enemy.

Description
of the Town
of Pensacola.

The town of Pensacola is surrounded by two pretty large brooks of water, which take their rise under Gage hill, a small mount behind the town, and discharge themselves into the bay, one at each extremity of the town.

The town and fort of Pensacola, surrendered to the arms of his Catholic Majesty, in the year 1781, and with them the whole province of West Florida became subject to the king of Spain, as before mentioned.

The hopes of a Spanish trade induced many people to settle here, at a great expence, but it did not answer their expectation. The principal objects ought to be the Indian trade, indigo, cotton, rice, hemp, tobacco and lumber, these being the natural produce of the country. Tho' Pensacola stands in a very sandy situation, yet with pains the gardens produce great plenty of vegetables. Fruit trees, such as orange, fig, and peach trees are here in perfection. And the bay abounds with a variety of fine fish.

About

About a mile to the eastward of Pensacola, between it and the English point, is the East lagoon, which after turning to the N W 4 or 5 miles, receives the Six Mile Brook. This is a pretty little winding stream, on the East side of which is an iron mine, where a large natural magnet was found. There is a fine mineral spring of the Chalybeate kind, near the mouth of the lagoon, of which there are several others in this country.

Campble
Town.

From English point, the bay stretches to the northward. On the West side, near the mouth of the river Escambia, lies Campble Town, a settlement of French protestants, about 10 miles from Pensacola by land, and 13 by water. The spot on which it stands is high, and a very light soil; but its situation being near to the marshes, it is thereby rendered unhealthy, and has been the means of carrying off many of the inhabitants who were sent out in 1766, and were for sometime supported by government, in order to manufacture silk; but either for want of proper management, or other reasons, nothing of that kind was attempted, and the place is since abandoned and the town destroyed.

River Escam-
bia.

The river Escambia, the most considerable that falls into the bay of Pensacola, empties itself near the head of the North branch, about 12 or 15 miles from Pensacola, through several marshes, and channels, which have a number of islands between them, that are overflowed when the water is high. There is a shoal near the entrance, and vessels that draw more than 5 or 6 feet cannot be carried into it, even through the deepest channel; but there is from 2 to 4 fathoms afterwards. I ascended it with a boat upwards of 80 miles, where from the depth of water it appeared to be navigable for pettiaguers many miles further. It is uncertain where the source of this river is; but supposed to be at a considerable distance, and is very winding in its course. The

The lands in general on each side of the river, are rich low or swamp, admirably adapted for the culture of rice or corn, as may suit the planter best; and what gives these low lands a superiority over many others, is the great number of rivulets that fall into this river from the high circumjacent country, which may easily be led over any part of, or almost all the rice lands, at any season of the year whatever. Near the mouth of this river are a great number of islands, some of very considerable extent, and not inferior for rice to any in America. The settlements made by Messieurs Tait and Mitchell, Captain Johnson, Mr. M'Kinnon and some others, are very evident proofs of this assertion, who, in the course of two years from their first settlement, had nearly cleared all the expences they had been at in making very considerable establishments; and I am well assured would entirely have done it in another year, had not the Spaniards taken possession of the country.

Remarks on the lands upon the Escambia, and near Pensacola in West Florida.

Further up the river, we meet with other islands, having much higher banks than those below, very fit for raising Indian corn, or pulse of all kinds, with a sufficient proportion of rice land on them also. The large island on which Mr. Marshall made his settlement, nearly opposite the old stockaded fort, about 28 miles from Pensacola by land and 40 by water, is the uppermost island of any note in the river Escambia, and is, without doubt, in point of fertility of soil, equal to any thing to be met with in the country. The westerly part of this last mentioned island is high, and not subject to be overflowed, unless in remarkable high freshes, and then only some particular low parts of it, the rest is high and well secured against floods; the eastern part of it is low and liable to be overflowed at some times of the year; the high land extends from about a mile, to a mile and a half from the westernmost branch of the river that surrounds it, and

is

is equal to any on the Mississippi, Amit, or Comit. A more advantageous place for small settlements than this, is not to be met with any where near Pensacola.

The country on each side of the river above this island is higher, and as the water is confined in one channel, forms a most beautiful river, with great plenty of good low lands on each side of it for many miles up. The low lands generally extend from a mile and a half to two miles from the banks of the river, and some places more, when we come to a fine high pine country, intermixed with oak and hickory land. There are, on both sides of this river, a number of rising grounds or bluffs, which afford delightful prospects on the river, and would be elegant situations for gentlemens seats. The low lands and islands abound with great quantities of white and red oak for staves, which answer well for the West-India market, and an inexhaustible quantity of cypress for lumber and shingles, together with plenty of red and white cedar for building. The open country, or high lands bordering on these low rich lands are generally pine, but of a quality superior to most other pine countries, having generally a good soil for five or six inches deep, and well adapted for raising corn, beans, peas, turnips, potatoes, &c.

Perhaps there is no country more beautifully diversified with hills and dales, nor more plentifully supplied with fine streams, than that which borders on the low lands upon this river. But what, in a very particular manner, recommends this part of West-Florida, is the fine and extensive ranges for cattle which are so frequently to be met with here ; it being very common for an ordinary planter to have 200 heads and some 1000 heads, within the vicinity of Pensacola. There is scarcely a stream in these parts but what has water sufficient for saw-mills, and the country abounds with excellent timber for planks or lumber of all kinds.

The

The air is pure and healthy, and the planters and negroes enjoy a good state of health the year round. The Indians emphatically call it, on account of the fine streams of water every where to be met with, *the sweet water country*. Great plenty of fish is to be found in this river, and all kinds of wild game are to be met with in great abundance.

With regard to the face of the country between the Escambia and Pensacola, it is varied with vallies and rising grounds. At about 20 miles from Pensacola the soil grows better than it is at the town; the vallies are covered with grafs or canes, intersperfed with thickets of laurel, myrtle, and casina. There is generally a rivulet running through each of them, either towards the Perdido or Escambia. The rising grounds are chiefly covered with pines, oak, and hickory.

The North branch of the bay of Pensacola is only navigable for small vessels. It was formerly well settled on each side. The middle land between the North bay and the Ouyavalana, or Yellow Water, a branch of the East bay, abounds with large tall pines fit for masts, yards, &c.

The Yellow Water, or Middle river, enters the Middle River. East branch of the bay at the N E corner, and after going about five or six leagues up the country, the eastern branch ends in a bason or lake at the bottom of a rising ground, but the western branch I have ascended some leagues further. There are several small islands near the entrance of this river, which produce cypress and small cedars, but the soil is indifferent.

The East river empties into the bottom of the East East River. branch, about six miles from the Middle river. It is about a quarter of a mile broad for 2 leagues, and then contracts to the breadth of 30 or 40 feet. This river comes from the eastward, running nearly paral-

lel to St. Rofes channel, and its source is about 16 miles from its entrance into the bay.

The peninsula between the bay of Pensacola and St. Rofes channel, which is from 1 to 3 or 4 miles broad, is in general very poor sandy foil. It produces, in some places, large pines and live oak.

Rose Island.

Rose island extends along the coast, for the space of near 50 miles, and is no where above half a mile broad. It is very remarkable for its white sandy hummocks, and straggling trees here and there. There is a clump of 4 tall trees close together, which, at a distance, appears like one, about 18 miles from the West end, and another of the same kind about a league further to the eastward. There are likewise several hummocks, more easy to remark than describe, but an attentive person, after once or twice sailing along, can be at no loss to know what part of the coast he falls in with.

The peculiarity of the appearance of Rose island from the sea, and the deep soundings all along it, are of great service to know the coast: there are 9 or 10 fathoms in some places, within a mile or two of the shore; and, when a frigate is within 16 or 17 fathoms, the tops of the trees on the main land may be descried from the quarter deck. The bottom is generally fine white sand, with broken shells, and black specks, but in one place off the East end of Rose island, out of sight of land, the bottom is of a coarse gravel, mixed with coral. This ought particularly to be attended to, as it is the only spot with that kind of soundings on the coast: it is of a considerable extent, and there are from 20 to 30 and 40 fathoms on it, or more. There is indeed a coral bottom off the bay of Esperito Santo, and some other parts on the coast of East Florida, but these generally begin in 7 or 8 fathoms, within sight of land; from which and the difference of latitude, one cannot be mistaken for the other.

This

This is a very extensive bay, stretching about 30 miles to the north-east, and is from 4 to 6 miles broad. There is a bar before it with only 7 or 8 feet where deepest. But afterwards there is 16 or 17 feet, as far as the red bluff on the main land. The channel between this bluff and the East part of Rose island is but narrow, and a little further on, towards the bay, it is choaked up with a large shoal in some places dry, the deepest water on it is only 4 or 5 feet; so that nothing but very small vessels can enter this bay from the sea, and the channel between Rose island and the main, is just sufficient for boats or pettiangers.

Bay of St.
Rosa.

On the North side of St. Rose's bay, almost opposite to the entrance from the sea, there are three pretty large branches, which stretch several miles: the westernmost, which is the largest, is again subdivided into smaller branches, all which have deep water. The other two receive each a considerable rivulet of clear water with a rapid stream. On the banks there is plenty of cedar, &c.

The largest river that falls into St. Rose's bay is the Chahta-hatcha or Pea river, which runs from the N E, and enters the bottom of the bay through several mouths, but so shoal that only a small boat or canoe can pass them. I ascended this river about 25 leagues, where there is settled a small party of the Couffac Indians. The banks of this river, in point of soil and timber, resembles very much those of the river Escambia.

Chahta-hatcha
River.

Between the bays of St. Rosa, and St. Andrews, the coast runs E S E, and S E by E, for the space of 52 miles, the soundings much the same as off Rose island; it is to be observed that the trees are thick, and come pretty close to the shore. There are likewise some red hummocks as well as white, which with the trenching of the land may be of service to know that part of the coast.

Coast between
the bays of St.
Rosa and St.
Andrews.

The

St. Andrew's
Bay.

The entrance of St. Andrew's bay is between a small island on the right hand, and a narrow peninsula on the left. There is a high white sand hill, which is a remarkable object from the sea : it lies in latitude 30 d 06 m North, and about 10 leagues to the North-west of Cape Blaise. From the point of the peninsula, there is a large shoal extending for more than two thirds of the way towards the island; which is 2 miles distant, leaving a channel of 17 or 18 feet, but it has a small bar of 13 feet.

There is anchorage just within St. Andrew's island in 3 fathoms and an half, but it is more commodious within the point of the peninsula in 5 fathoms, with the advantage of fresh water, which is easily got by digging.

St. Andrew's bay runs first to the N W, nearly parallel to the sea shore, for 3 leagues; then it turns to the eastward for about a league, when a large branch breaks off to the S E. The main body continues to the northward for 2 leagues, when it is divided into two large branches, one going to the N E, and the other to the westward. This last, which is the least, reaches within a few miles of St. Rosa's bay. The country between them is low and marshy, and full of fresh water ponds.

St. Andrew's bay is navigable for any vessels that can go over the bar. There is a large shoal with only 3 or 4 feet, about half way up the first reach, but there is a deep channel on the West side of it, and afterwards there is from 3 to 7 fathoms all over the bay. There are no rivers of any consequence, nor can the soil immediately on the bay be much commended; there is however great plenty of large pines, live oak, and cedar.

Coast from St.
Andrew's
island to the
bay of St.
Joseph.

From St. Andrew's island to the bay of St. Joseph's, the middle of the coast between them runs about E S E near 15 miles, with a shoal all the way between them

them near the shore, which easily appears, it being of a whiteish colour. There is from 12 to 18 feet on the greatest part of it, except towards the mouth of St. Joseph's bay, where there is a bank near the middle, between St. Joseph's point and the main land, with only 7 or 8 feet, and 4 fathoms just within; but there is a very good channel with 3 fathoms on the bar, between that bank and St. Joseph's point, on the right hand going in.

In going into St. Joseph's bay it is requisite to keep within a cable and a half or two cables length of the peninsula, in five or four and a half fathoms, as it shoals regularly towards the point, from which a spit of sand runs out a little way; and when in three fathoms to haul round gradually, still keeping near two cables length off shore. The bar is narrow, and immediately within it there is from four to six and a half fathoms soft ground. The end of the peninsula forms two or three points, from each of which a small spit runs off for a little distance, which may be known by the discoloured water on them. This is an excellent harbour; in which the best place for anchoring is just within the peninsula, opposite to some ruins that still remain of the village of St. Joseph. There the Spaniards had a post, which they abandoned about the year 1700, but they took possession of it again in 1719. There is very good water to be got here by digging, and on the North side of the bay are two or three small fresh water brooks, opposite to which are three or four fathoms close to the shore. In the year 1717, the French erected a fort which they called Crœvœur, a mile to the northward of a brook in St. Joseph's bay, opposite to the point of the peninsula, but abandoned in the next year, on the representation of the governor of Pensacola that it belonged to his Catholic Majesty. The bay is nearly of the figure of a horse-shoe, being about twelve miles

miles in length, and seven across where broadest. Towards the bottom of it are a few small islands, and the water is so shoal that a boat can hardly go near the shore.

The soil on the North side of the bay is very sandy, but there are some spots near the ruins of St. Joseph's that are covered with a kind of verdure, and produce plenty of grapes, some of which are large, of a purple colour, and pretty good to the taste : they were probably planted there by the Spaniards. There are here likewise some small cabbage trees, of which there are great numbers on St. George's islands beyond Cape Blaise, and on all the coast to the eastward. These cabbage trees do not grow above the height of 20 feet ; the bud, or unformed leaves in the heart being boiled has somewhat the taste of cabbage, but is more delicious.

A very good establishment might be made here for a fishery, as the settlers might make salt on the spot to cure the bass, rock, cod, grouper, red mullet, and other kinds of fish, which are here in great abundance ; and, when well cured, are little if at all inferior to those brought from the northward.

Peninsula between St. Joseph's and Cape Blaise.

The peninsula between St. Joseph's and Cape Blaise is a narrow slip of land, in some places not above a quarter of a mile broad. The gaps here and there upon it, and the water in the bay appearing through them from the mast-head, together with the trenching of the land about NNW, and SSE, for near four leagues, make it easily known. The trees about Cape Blaise are very thick, and there is a remarkable single tree, like a bush, that stands without the others towards the point. In case of an easterly wind, there is safe anchorage opposite the thickest trees in six or seven fathoms, about one or two miles off shore ; and there is a large pond of fresh water near the beach, about three or four miles to the eastward of Cape Blaise.

Blaife. There is also a remarkable gap among the trees between the sea and the bottom of St. Joseph's bay, where is a narrow isthmus not above 5 or 600 yards broad.

Cape Blaife, where it ends in a low point near two miles from the trees, in latitude 29 d 40 m N, is not only remarkable from the aforesaid circumstances, but likewise on account of the irregular soundings that are found a great way out at sea from it. There is a spit of land that runs about two miles from the point in a SSE direction; and there are several banks of three or four fathoms, at the distance of six or seven miles, with deep water from seven to ten fathoms between them. There are even some banks of five and six fathoms almost out of sight of land from the mast-head; but though they may alarm a stranger, there is no danger in going near enough to make the land plain.

There is another cape or point of land about six leagues to the eastward of Cape Blaife, being an elbow of the largest of St. George's islands, nearly opposite to the river Apalachicola. This point lies in 29 d 38 m N. There is a large shoal running out from it a considerable way, but how far has not yet been ascertained. The coast between it and Cape Blaife forms a kind of hollow bay, with deep soundings and a soft bottom. There are two islands to the North-west of St. George's cape; that nearest to it is small, and remarkable for a clump of straggling trees on the middle of it; the other is a pretty large island of a triangular form, and reaches within three leagues of Cape Blaife, having a passage at each end of it for small craft into the bay, between these islands and the river Apalachicola: but this bay is full of shoals and oyster banks, and not above two or three feet water at most in any of the branches of that river.

Having thus given an account of the sea-coast of
General Observations.
 West-

West-Florida, I shall conclude with a few general observations on the seasons, winds, tides, &c. As most of the bars lie a considerable way without the entrance of the bays and rivers, the water seldom rises or falls on them above a foot; but in the bays or channels it rises two or three feet. The tides are irregular, and seem to be governed in a great measure by the winds; but not always by that wind which blows directly on the spot. Though there is generally about 12 hours flood and 12 hours ebb, yet it often happens that there are two tides of each in the space of 24 hours; and sometimes the tide will run one way for the space of 18 hours together, and only five or six hours the contrary, so that nothing can be said with certainty on this subject. By reason of the trade winds blowing in the Atlantic ocean, and continuing into the bay of Mexico, it is natural to suppose that the water, being there hemmed in, will of course force a passage out where it finds the least resistance; which is through the gulph of Florida. From this general principle it should follow, that on the coast of West-Florida it ought to run from West to East, which in some measure would account for the shoals being found at the East end of all the islands on this coast, and deep water on the West ends; but in a large bay or Mediterranean sea like that of Mexico, where there are so many rivers, bays, &c. the general course of the current must be greatly disturbed. From this proceeds that irregularity which is observable on the North side of the bay of Mexico, where the tide of ebb always sets to the eastward near the shore, and the flood from the southward or S E: what it may do in the offing has not yet been examined, nor will it be easily determined.

To the eastward of Cape Blaise, the general observations concerning the deep water at the West end of the

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the islands and peninsulas, and vice versa, do not seem always to hold good. Indeed, as far as has been examined of the West part of East-Florida, it is a shoal a considerable way from the land, (and therefore ought to be known only to be avoided) except the bay of Esperitu Santo*, at the entrance of which, in the latitude 27d 8m, there is four fathoms and safe anchorage.

From the winds that prevail in general on this coast during the months of April, May, and to the middle of June, the weather is mild. The sea and land breezes are pretty regular, and they generally continue so all the summer. In July, August, and most of September, there are frequent squalls, with much rain, thunder, and lightning; and sometimes gales of wind from the South and South-west for several days together. From the middle of October to the end of March, the northerly winds prevail, which at times blow very hard during that season; when the wind changes to the eastward or southward of that point, it is commonly attended with close, hazy, or foggy weather.

It ought to be observed in sailing in the Gulph of Mexico, to be very careful of logs or driftwood in the night time; for when the waters of the Mississippi are high, that river discharges an immense number of large logs, or trees, which being driven by the winds and currents all over the gulph, may do considerable damage to vessels under full sail.

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* The bay of Esperitu Santo is situated on the West coast of the province of East-Florida, in 27 deg. of North latitude. It has a good harbour, but the land all about that coast is very low, and cannot be seen from a ship's deck when in seven fathoms water. Several low sandy islands and marshes, covered with mangrove bushes, lie before the main land. Here is the greatest quantity of fish in the summer time imaginable, which may be caught with a seine, enough to load a ship, if the climate would admit of curing them, even in a few days.

Here is stone proper for building, on this coast. Also great plenty of deer, and some wild cattle. But the main land near the coast is in general sandy and barren, and is intermixed in many places with valleys capable of improvement for stock of all sorts. The bay and islands before the main land abound with fish and various sorts of wild fowl.

I SHALL here subjoin some Remarks on the Tortugas, &c. as heretofore published by George Gauld, Esquire.

AS a competent knowledge of the situation of the Dry Tortugas is absolutely necessary for the navigation to and from the North side of the bay of Mexico, and from the West-Indies through the Gulph of Florida, a few general remarks concerning them may not be unacceptable to the public at this time.

They consist of ten small islands, or keys, extending E N E and W S W for ten or eleven miles, at the distance of about thirty leagues from the nearest part of the coast of Florida, forty from the island of Cuba; and fourteen leagues from the westernmost of the Florida keys. They are all very low, but some of them covered with mangrove bushes, and may be seen at four leagues distance. The southwestermost keys, which, in going from Pensacola, Mobile, or the Mississippi, is the corner to be turned, and coming from Cape Antonio the point to be avoided, lies in 24 d 32 m North latitude, and about 83 d 50 m West longitude, from the Royal Observatory at Greenwich; the variation of the compass, by a medium of several observations, is seven degrees East. A reef of coral rocks runs about a quarter of a mile S W from these keys, the water on which is discoloured; and in general, wherever there is danger it may easily be seen from the mast-head in the day time. There is a large bank of brown coral rocks, intermixed with white patches of sand, about five or six miles to the westward of the Tortugas, with very irregular soundings from six to twelve fathoms; the bottom appears very plainly, and though it may be alarming to strangers, yet there is no danger. You will find from thirteen to seventeen fathoms between this bank and the Tortugas.

If you are bound to the eastward, and meet with a strong easterly gale, which is frequent there in the summer season, you may safely come to an anchor in five or six fathoms, under the lee of the long sandy island to the northward of the S W key, about a quarter of a mile off shore. The bank of soundings extends only about five or six leagues to the southward of the Tortugas, but much farther to the westward, and all the way to the northward along the Florida shore. This is a lucky circumstance for the safety of navigation in those parts, as caution in soundings may prevent any danger in the night time; for the soundings are extremely regular all along this bank to the northward, almost to Cape Blaise, in latitude 29 d 41 m: so that by the latitude and depth of water, we generally know how far we are to the eastward or westward. There is a space of several leagues together, from twenty to fifty fathoms, but from fifty or sixty it deepens fast to seventy, eighty, and soon after no ground.

From the bar of Pensacola to the Dry Tortugas the true course is S 30 d E 134 leagues, and therefore SE by S by the compass will carry you clear of them to the westward; but it will be both prudent and necessary to sound frequently when you get into the latitude of 26 d and 25 m, and never stand in to less than thirty fathoms in the night time, till you are past the latitude of 24 d 30 m, when you may haul up SE by E or E S E, which will carry you near to the Havanna.

There is a broad channel over the bank to the eastward of the Tortugas, of ten to seventeen fathoms, which, in going to and from the coast of West-Florida, &c. might occasionally cut off a great deal of the distance; but that passage is by no means to be attempted, unless you can see the Tortugas distinctly, and keep within two or three leagues of the
eastermost

eastermost of them, as there is a coral bank of only twelve feet at the distance of five leagues, and farther on towards Cayo Marques, the westernmost of the Florida keys, there is a very dangerous and extensive bank of quicksand, on many parts of which there are no more than four or five feet of water. It is of a remarkable white colour, and may be easily seen and avoided in the day time.

HAVING now finished my intended narrative, I shall close it with the following observations upon the probable consequences that will arise to the United States of America, from the possession of so extensive a country, abounding with such a variety of climate, soil, and productions; referring my reader for his further information upon the subject, to the Philosophical Essays published in London in 1772, concerning the state of the British empire on this continent.

There is some amusement at least in reflecting upon the vast consequences, which some time or other must infallibly attend the settling of America. If we consider the progress of the empires which have hitherto existed in the world, we shall find the short duration of their most glorious periods, owing to causes which will not operate against that of North America. Those empires were formed by conquest; a great many nations different in character, language and ideas, were by force jumbled into one heterogeneous power: it is most surprising that such dissonant parts should hold together so long. But when the band of union was weakened, they returned to their original and natural separation: language and national character formed many sovereignties out of the former connected varieties. This, however, will be very different with North America. The habitable parts of which, including the dominions of Britain
and

and of Spain, North of latitude 30d, contain above 3,500,000 square miles. It would be unnecessary to remark, that this includes what at present does not belong to our North America. If we want it, I warrant it will soon be ours. This extent of territory is much greater than that of any empire that ever existed, as will appear by the following table.

	Square Miles.
The Persian empire under Darius con-	
tained - - - -	1,650,000
The Roman empire in its utmost extent	1,610,000
The Chinese empire, - - - -	1,749,000
The Great Mogul's, - - - -	1,116,000

The Russian empire, including all Tartary, is larger than any of these. But I might as well throw into the American scale the countries about the Hudson's bay, for the one is as likely to be peopled as the other; whereas all I have taken in will assuredly be so. Besides, North-America is actually peopling very fast, which is far enough from being the case with the Russian deserts. Now the habitable part of what was once the British dominions alone in North-America, contains above 1,200,000 square miles, or almost equal to any of the above. But the whole, as I before observed, is 3,500,000, or more than the Persian and Roman empires together. In respect, therefore, to extent, and the means of maintaining numbers of people, it is superior to all. But then comes the advantage which is decisive of its duration. This immense continent will be peopled by persons whose language and national character must be the same. Foreigners who may resort to us, will be confounded by the general population, and the whole people, physically speaking, one: so that those seeds of decay, sown in the very foundation of the ancient empires,

will

will have no existence here. Further, the peopling of this vast tract from a nation renowned in trade, navigation and naval power, has occasioned all the ideas of the original to be transplanted into the copy. And these advantages having been so long enjoyed, with the amazing and unparalleled situation for commerce between Europe, Asia, and the great southern continent; and America at the same time possessing, above other countries, the means of building, fitting out, and maintaining a great navy; the inhabitants of this potent empire, so far from being in the least danger from the attacks of any other quarter of the globe, will have it in their power to engross the whole commerce of it, and to reign, not only lords of America, but to possess, in the utmost security, the dominion of sea throughout the world, which their ancestors enjoyed before them. None of the ancient empires, therefore, which fell a prey to the Tartars, nor the present one of China, can be compared to this of North-America, which, as surely as the land is now in being, will hereafter be trod by the first people the world ever knew.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

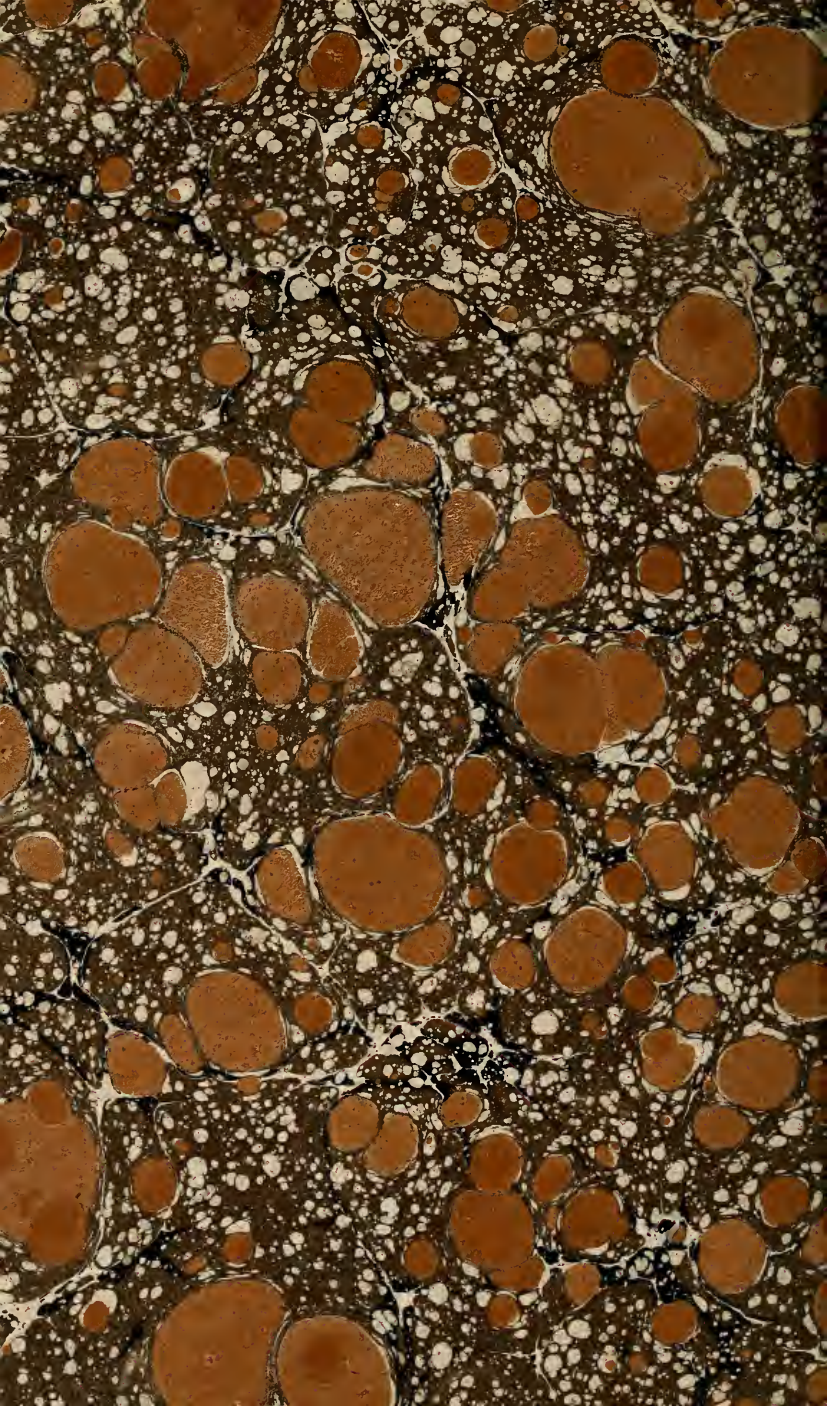
- Page 6, line 24, instead of *in* read *on* the Mississippi.
 Page 10, line 36, instead of *on* read *in* said latitude.
 Page 29, line 19, instead of *this* read *their* value.
 Page 31, line 16, instead of *the* read *though* strong.
 Page 33, line 27, instead of *port* read *post*.
 Page 47, line 22, instead of *lake* read *a lake*.

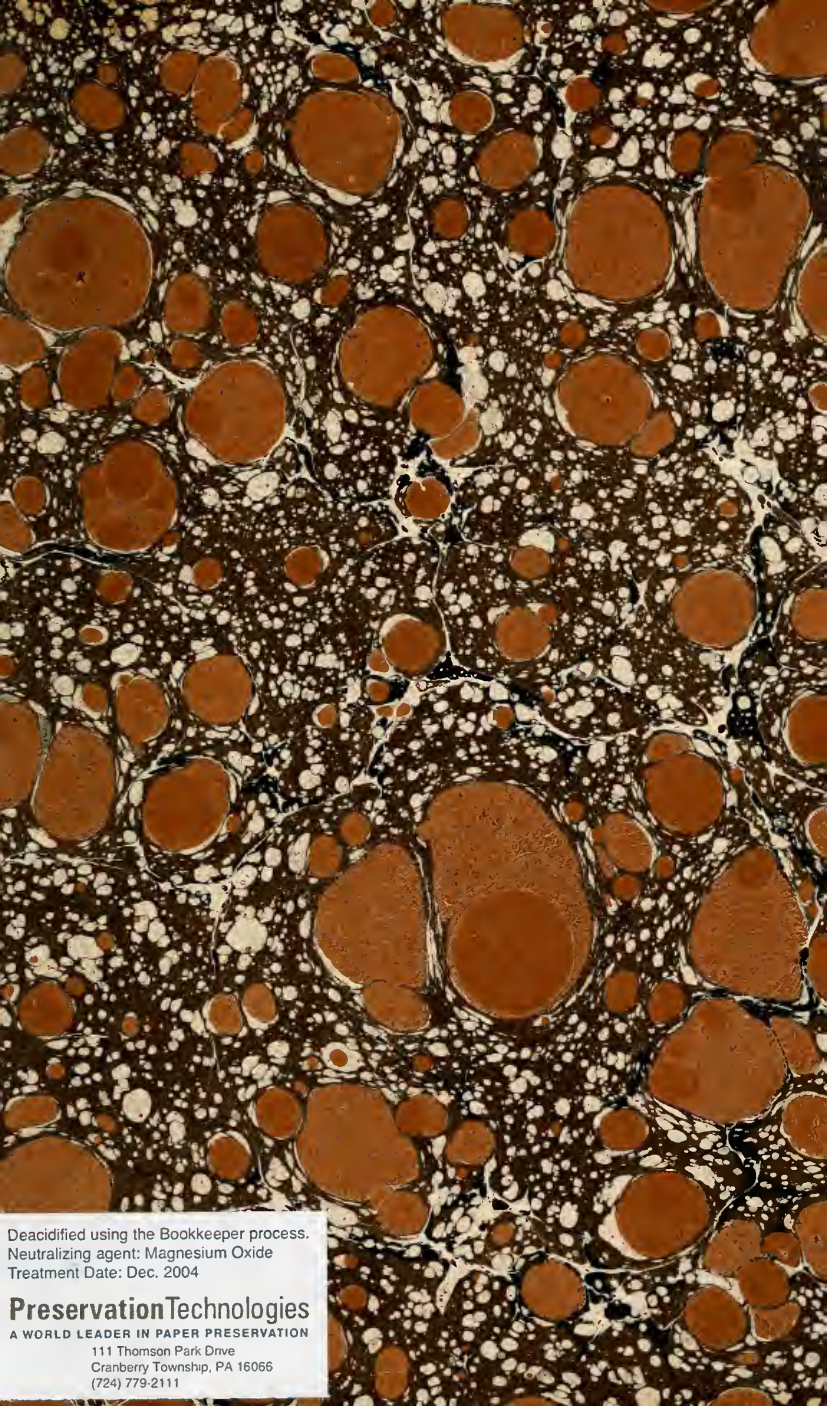
TABLE OF DISTANCES.

Miles.

From the Balize or the Mouths of the Mississippi	
to the Detour aux Plaquemines, is	- - 32
to beginning of the settlements	- - - 20
to the Detour des Anglois	- - - 35
to New Orleans	- - - 18
to the villages of the Humas and Alibama	
Indians	- - - 60
to the Fourche de Chetimachas and Indian	
village of the same name	- - 3
to the Concession of Monsf. Paris	- - 9
to the Iberville	- - - 27
to Baton Rouge	- - - 18
to the settlement of Point Coupé	- 17
to upper end of this settlement where there	
is a village of Tunica Indians on the East	
side	- - - 20
to the Chafalaya, the uppermost mouth of	
the Mississippi	- - - 30
to the River Rouge	- - - 3
to Fort Rosalie at the Natchez	- - 56
to the Petit Goufre	- - - 31 $\frac{1}{2}$
to the Grand Goufre	- - - 14
to the Yazou Cliffs	- - - 39 $\frac{3}{4}$
to the River Yazou	- - - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
to the River Arkansaw	- - - 158 $\frac{1}{4}$
to the River St. Francis	- - - 108
to the River and Heights of Margot	- 70 $\frac{1}{2}$
to the Chickasaw River	- - - 104 $\frac{1}{2}$
to Mine au fer	- - - 67 $\frac{1}{2}$
to the River Ohio	- - - 15
<hr/>	
Total,	964 $\frac{1}{2}$







Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.
Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide
Treatment Date: Dec. 2004

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